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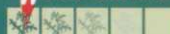
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32 year old Head Greenkeeper qualified to NVQ Level 4 including Spraying, chainsaw, First Aid Certificates.

Excellent man management and supervisory skills, computer literate, working with in agreed budgets.

Presentation to highest standards, seeks challenging new position.

JS/126/01

33 year old Deputy Head Scottish Greenkeeper seeks greenkeeping position in Edinburgh or borders.

Certificates in Spraying, Chainsaws, Mole Control, and NVQ Level 3 Certificate.

JS/137/02

FREE online Job Shop Ads!

If you didn't already know, BIGGA upload all recruitment advertising from the pages of Greenkeeper International to coincide with the launch of each issue. Many Greenkeeper members have found the online recruitment section to be of great benefit, particularly if they have left their magazine at work! They can simply log on at home, to the BIGGA website, and access all of the latest jobs available in the fine turf industry. Also, if a member is looking for employment, their advert will appear in this database for prospective employers to read.

Any member who has found themselves out of work as a direct result of the Foot and Mouth Outbreak may wish to take advantage of the BIGGA website to help find another club. As a special service to members the Association will allow you to post a Job Shop advert on the website, listing your experience and qualifications, offering your services free of charge. Further information can be obtained from the Sales & Marketing Department at BIGGA HOUSE Tel: 01347 833800 email: sales@bigga.co.uk

Please note: This offer only applies to website adverts and not those which you wish to appear in Greenkeeper International.

Please print clearly, and keep your entry to under 500 words.

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TIME TO
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FOR GREENKEEPERS BY GREENKEEPERS CHAT GREENKEEPERS



World of Golf operates the UK's 3 most successful golf centres and will open a new centre in Gothenburg this summer. We are recruiting to the following positions for our centres in Sidcup (Kent) and Great Western Road (Glasgow).

GREENKEEPERS

Excellent career development opportunities for self motivated greenkeepers wishing to put into practice all greenkeeping skills on our range, fairways, course and practice areas. Ideal candidates will be qualified to NVQ/SVQ Level 2, will full clean driving licence, experienced in the use and maintenance of modern machinery, and also hold spraying certificates PA1, 2, and 6.

In return we offer a competitive remuneration and benefits package.

Applications in writing with full CV to:

Liz Williams, World of Golf, Beverley Way, New Malden, KT3 4PH
or by email to: lizwilliams@ashtour.freeserve.co.uk

PYECOMBE GOLF CLUB

Requires a

GREENKEEPER

Pyecombe Golf Club has a vacancy for an experienced greenkeeper, preferably with NVQ Level 2 and spraying qualifications.

Applications in writing with CV details please to:
Managing Secretary, Pyecombe Golf Club,
Clayton Hill, Pyecombe, Brighton BN45 7FF

PINE RIDGE GOLF CLUB

Requires a

DEPUTY HEAD GREENKEEPER

Must have the relevant qualifications for the post and practical experience.

The successful applicant will be qualified to NVQ 3 or equivalent, possessing PA1, PA2 and PA6 certificates, with a sound knowledge of golf machinery, irrigation systems and maintenance practices.

As a key member of a tightly knit team this is challenging opportunity in a demanding environment and requires a high level of commitment and enthusiasm to maintain our reputation as one of the best public courses in South East England.

Excellent salary and prospects available.

Applications in writing with full CV to: The Managing Director, Pine Ridge GC,
Old Bisley Road, Frimley, Camberley, Surrey GU16 9NX

GATTON MANOR HOTEL, GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

Require a

GREENKEEPER

An experienced greenkeeper. Qualified to NVQ level 2 with preferably PA1, PA2 & PA6 Spraying Certificates.

Salary dependant on experience and qualifications.

Possibility of single persons accommodation.

Applications in writing with C.V. to:

John Davidson, Course Manager, Gatton Manor Hotel, Golf and Country Club,
Standon Lane, Ockley, Surrey, RH5 5PQ

SAFFRON WALDEN GOLF CLUB



APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED FOR THE POSITION OF

COURSE MANAGER

Saffron Walden Golf Club is a private members club with an 18-hole golf course and a playing membership of 950.

The successful applicant, who will have the appropriate qualifications and preferably be a golfer, will have responsibility for course management, maintenance, staff and budgets.

The following skills will be required.

- Experience in all aspects of course management
- A practical knowledge of the latest equipment
- Experience in tee, green and bunker construction
- The ability to prepare and manage budgets
- Man management skills

Salary will be negotiable and accommodation may be provided if required.

Written applications with full CV should be sent to:

Gerald Pearce, General Manager, Saffron Walden Golf Club,
Windmill Hill, Saffron Walden, Essex CB10 1BX

The closing date for applications will be Friday 7 June 2002.



PART-TIME LIAISON OFFICERS

The GTC is responsible to ensure the Greenkeeping sector has a range of qualifications appropriate to the needs of the industry and maintain a partnership with a network of Approved Training Providers who offer training courses to complement the qualifications.

To improve its communication structure the GTC is now looking to appoint part time Liaison Officers in England, Ireland and Wales. NB Scotland already have Liaison Officers appointed.

The Liaison Officer positions with the GTC will have non-employed status however an hourly rate and expenses will be paid for work carried out on behalf of the GTC.

The successful applicants will be required to work regionally for the GTC on up to a maximum of 5 full days per annum and attend 2/3 update training days per annum at GTC Headquarters.



Applications in writing including Curriculum Vitae should be sent to:

Sue Gudgeon, GTC, Aldwark Manor,
Aldwark, Alne, York, YO61 1UF



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Vitax is an old established privately owned company supplying quality products to the sport turf and local authority markets. Our well known brands include LongLast, Estermone and the Key Range of sports turf fertilisers.

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If you feel you have the necessary skills, experience and enthusiasm to succeed in this role, please send your CV to;

**Clive Williams, Commercial Development Manager,
Vitax Limited, Owen Street, Coalville, Leics LE67 3DE**

Tel 01530 510060 Fax 01530 510299

E-mail: marketing@vitax.co.uk



Whitchurch (Cardiff) Golf Club

PANTMAWR ROAD, WHITCHURCH, CARDIFF CF14 7TD

Invite applications for the position of

HEAD GREENKEEPER

Founded in 1914 the course is situated in North Cardiff and is one of Wales most prestigious Parkland Course.

We are a Private Members Club with over 900 members, and are currently looking to employ a replacement for the existing Head Greenkeeper who retires in July 2002.

Reporting to the Club Manager and Greens Committee the successful applicant must possess the appropriate qualifications, experience, and would also require the following skills.

- Wide experience in all aspects of course management.
- A track record in delivering a high quality 18 hole golf course.
- Experience in the construction of Tees, Greens and Bunkers.
- Team leader with the ability to motivate his staff.
- To be able to prepare and control a course budget.

Applications with a full CV should be submitted to :

**The Manger, Whitchurch Golf Club,
Pantmawr Road, Cardiff, CF14 7TD**

Closing date for applications: 26th May 2002

Golf Course Supervisor

£16,734 - £18,417 per annum

Ref. RSP624.

1st Assistant Green Keeper/Chargehand

£14,802 - £16,203 per annum

Ref. RSP623.


For the Golf Course Supervisor post you must be able to live in accommodation within Stockwood Park Golf Course. You will undertake all aspects of the management and maintenance of the course in conjunction with the Parks Operations Manager and you must have a driving licence, as you will be driving a tractor. You will be required to make regular and frequent visits and deliveries to sites within the Borough. You will have basic numeracy and literacy skills, demonstrable communication skills, the ability to deal with straightforward enquiries and to give advice to people inside and outside the council.

For the 1st Assistant Green Keeper/Chargehand post you will work in conjunction with the Golf Course supervisor, undertaking the management and maintenance of Stockwood Park Golf Course.

For both posts you must have demonstrable experience of golf course maintenance with due regard to the green keepers codes of practice and ethics as well as experience of maintenance and operation of irrigation systems. You must be able to work with, supervise and motivate a team of green keeper operatives. You will have demonstrable knowledge of pests and diseases and of their treatment and have PA1, PA2, PA6 pesticides spraying certificate. You must also have NVQ Sports Turf qualification or have equivalent experience.

We welcome applications from ethnic minority candidates who are currently under represented in these areas of work. Section 38 (1)(b) RRA 1976 applies.

For an application form and further details please contact the Human Resource Division, Apex House, 30-34 Upper George Street, Luton, LU1 2RD. Telephone (01582) 546621. Answerphone (01582) 547250.

 **MINICOM USERS ONLY (01582) 546296.**

E-mail: jobs@luton.gov.uk

Please quote appropriate reference number.

Closing date:
2.5.2002.



LUTON

BOROUGH COUNCIL
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We value equality because quality services need the best people - from the whole community.

GLYNHIR GOLF CLUB

Requires a FIRST ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Glynhir Golf Club is an 18 hole parkland course situated at the foot of the Black Mountains in South West Wales.

To continue and progress with course improvement and development, we are seeking an enthusiastic, competent and hardworking person with a sound knowledge of golf greenkeeping. Responsible for staff in the absence of the Head Greenkeeper.

Applicants must have a minimum of 4 years experience, hold NVQ Level 2 and PA1, PA2 and PA6 Spraying Certificates. COSH and Health & Safety in the work place.

Salary will be negotiable.

Please apply in writing including full C. V. to: Mr D Kenchington, Hon Secretary, Glynhir Golf Club, Glynhir Road, Llandybie, Carmarthenshire, SA18 2TE

Irrigation Design Engineer

Glen Farrow UK Ltd is a leading supplier of irrigation, pumping, heating and ventilation services.

The company specialises in the design, installation and maintenance of a range of equipment into the sports, amenity, horticultural and agricultural sectors.

The successful applicant will have the experience to design, cost and project manage irrigation and water system installations. Excellent interpersonal and communication skills are required as the position will involve dealing with people within the business, and our established customer base. A strong commitment to quality and the ability to work as part of a team is essential. The position would suit a self-motivated, ambitious individual who can bring experience and know-how to an expanding business offering good career prospects.

We offer a competitive salary plus bonus, car or car allowance.

If you have the experience and enthusiasm to fulfil this position write with details to: **S. Norton, General Manager, Glen Farrow UK Ltd, Spalding Road, Pinchbeck, Lincolnshire. PE11 3UE.**

Glen Farrow

DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

Community Services

Greenkeeper

To join our enthusiastic, highly motivated team, who are committed to providing the highest standards of maintenance at Stressholme Golf Centre.

You must be experienced in greenkeeping, qualified to NVQ Level 2 or equivalent, preferably holding PA1A, PA2 and PA6 certificates.

Application forms and further details are available from the Personnel Section, Vicarage Road, Darlington, DL1 1JW, Tel: (01325) 347520/347533.

Closing date: Friday 24th May 2002.

Job evaluation is currently ongoing within the organisation.

We are committed to equal opportunities. Workplace nursery facilities are provided for all employees subject to availability.

www.sector1.net for more vacancies within this organisation



CHIPSTEAD GOLF CLUB

Require an

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

An opportunity has arisen for an enthusiastic individual to join our hard working team. Candidates must have at least NVQ Level 2 plus Spraying Certificates PA1, PA2, and PA6.

Applications in writing with full CV should be addressed to:

Mike Oram, Chipstead Golf Club,
How Lane, Coulsdon, Surrey CR5 3LN



HEAD GREENKEEPER

Opened in 1994, designed by Peter Allis, Aston Wood is a progressive private members club with a major redevelopment programme in place for its 18-hole golf course.

The candidate must have a proven track record in all aspects of green keeping, including planning and monitoring work programmes and budgets, be self motivated, hands on and have the ability to lead an enthusiastic team by example.

The applicant should be qualified to at least NVQ 3 or its equivalent. Spraying Certificates would be an advantage and possess a sound working knowledge of Health & Safety regulations.

Salary negotiable in accordance with experience.

No accommodation available.

Applications in writing, with full CV by 22nd May 2002 to:

**Mr K Heathcote, General Manager, Aston Wood Golf Club,
Blake Street, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands, B74 7EU.**

Tel 0121 580 7803 or Fax 0121 353 0354

Interviews will take place on Friday 31st May & Saturday 1st June.



Formby Golf Club

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

The Club has an immediate vacancy for this position.

Applicants should have the following qualifications and attributes.

- At least 5 years relevant greenkeeping experience.
- Appropriate qualifications to NVQ level 2 or equivalent.
- Holder of Spraying Certificates PA1, PA2 & PA6
- Practical knowledge of golf course equipment and machinery
- Good communication and team working skills

Apply in writing with full C.V.

The Secretary Manager, Formby Golf Club,
Golf Road, Formby L37 1LQ

Email: info@formbygolfclub.co.uk



GREENKEEPERS

Over 360 acres of two championship golf courses need the urgent attention of four experienced greenkeepers to maintain these courses to the highest standards.

Situated just 16 miles from the centre of London and ideally located between Walton on Thames and Cobham, Burhill is one of Surrey's best kept secrets.

With the recent completion of our multi-million pound programme this club can boast state of the art fairway, tee and green irrigation with the back drop of our 18th century mansion clubhouse.

If you would like to join a team that is proactive and dynamic and also be part of what is quickly becoming one of the highest regarded clubs in the country then please apply to:-

David Cook, General Manager, Burhill Golf Centres Ltd,
Burhill, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey KT12 4BL

david@burhillgolf-club.demon.co.uk

TRAMORE GOLF CLUB

Applications are invited for the position of

HEAD GREENKEEPER

Tramore Golf Club is an 18-hole championship course (host to the Irish Close Championship in 2003) situated in the South East of Ireland.

The successful applicant will be responsible for maintenance and continued development of the course to the highest standards.

Salary will be commensurate with experience and qualifications.

Completed applications accompanied by a full C.V. should be forward to:

**The Secretary/Manager, Tramore Golf Club,
Tramore, County Waterford, Ireland**



OAKLANDS COLLEGE

Learning Assistant - Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Management

£15,035 - £18,027

Ref: S254/LA/GI

We require a resourceful individual with a minimum of two years' recent practical experience of working in the greenkeeping or sportsturf sector, and a relevant NVQ Level 3 qualification or equivalent, to join our specialist team to provide learning support and assessment to students on a wide range of programmes. You will be responsible for the maintenance of the college sportsgrounds including a small greenkeeping development presently consisting of three greens and tees.

Learning Assistant - Machinery Operation

£15,035 - £18,027

Ref: S892/LA/GI

We require a resourceful individual with a minimum of two years' recent practical experience of working in the agriculture and horticulture sector, and a relevant NVQ Level 3 qualification or equivalent, to join our specialist team to provide learning support and assessment to students on a wide range of programmes. You should have knowledge and recent experience of operating a wide range of tractors (less than 70 hp) and associated equipment.

For further information and an application form, please apply to: **The Personnel Unit, Oaklands College, Oaklands Campus, Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts AL4 0JA** or telephone **01727 737748** (24 hour answerphone).

Please quote the relevant reference.

Closing date: 22nd May 2002.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



Nomenclature or the system of names or naming, can have a great deal of significance in our world. Sandy McDivot investigates...

THE NAME GAME

Everything must have a name, whether it be a person, an object, a machine or a golf club and choosing the name correctly can be of critical importance.

This is especially true with people. Sometimes their name rules them out of a particular vocation. Although having said that, I do recollect a group of undertakers that delight in the name of De-Ath and I believe there once was a butchers called Badham and Gristle. I am also aware, that

Maybe if I did possess an 80-acre pylon infested course, with a three in one slope adjacent to the M62, I would call the resultant assault to the optic nerve Royal Mountain Springs National Golf Links, or words to that effect

within the ecclesiastical profession, there exists an unfortunately named Cardinal Sin and I particularly like the estate agents, I think based in the North of England, that are aptly called Dolittle and Dally. I even note from our Association's directory that a few of us have joined in the fun by going under the name of Green, Parr or even the odd Mower.

Generally though, if your name is Payne for instance, a vocation in dentistry would be one to be avoided and I would suggest people with the name

of Crippen could do better than enter the medical profession. Some names have been absolutely fine up until a particular person has spoilt the fun and taken them well and truly out of vogue. For example, Adolf has taken a bit of a nosedive in the popularity stakes since the 40's and I believe Myra has been less than prevalent since the 60's. These days people should avoid calling their twins Benjamin and William, because of the obvious flower pot connection and I would advise you side step Fred and Rosemary, especially if the surname is West. Matching first names with surnames is important and always check what the initials could add up to. So Larry would be fine, unless the surname is something like Parry and one wonders about the thought processes of Val Doonican's parents. I remember the Walker Cup Captain Peter McEvoy, saying how he once played golf with an American who introduced himself as Quintin Cumber. No problem there, until they exchanged score cards and Peter noticed on the top it read, Q Cumber. However, the American people have never showed undue concern for nomenclature and I recall in the 70's and 80's, some players on their golf tour took great delight in the celebration of the absurd, with names such as Gibby Gilbert, Forest Fezzler and Kermit Zarley.

Choosing the correct name for a golf club can be of equal importance. Personally, I have a severe disliking for the pretentious. So golf clubs that start with the word "the" have, in my opinion, got a lot to live up to. So often they fail abysmally in their self

proclaimed inference, that they are the definitive golf course of the area, the one that is set apart from all others. This is especially true when they are preceded by the name of the county in which they are found. On more than one occasion I have played such courses only to find that in reality they could qualify as being "the" worst of the county, the ones that should be preceded by the definite article in the same way as the notorious such as "the" Geoffrey Archer or "the" Robert Maxwell. (The Berkshire Golf Club excluded, of course) Personally, I like a golf club to be simply and descriptively named after the town or area in which it is found. So Hunstanton or Hankley Common fit the bill perfectly. A visitor would not necessarily expect to find a course of distinction but is delightfully surprised when the experience far exceeds expectations.

I also dislike the practice of giving grandiose names to the separate courses within a golf club. So we get things like the Gainsborough or the Blenheim course. In reality this is just a blatant attempt to inject a feeling of class, when courses of true quality never have to resort to such desperate tactics. Give me a simple Old and New or East and West anytime. The same goes for giving individual holes those separate names that no one ever uses, such as "Long Thrash", or "Watery Grave". This practice always reminds me of those sad suburban houses whose owners have named them "Dunromin" or "Glendale" in an effort to set them apart from the thousands of other identikit houses

TAKE LIST

History Major Golf Club Member List

next door, when all they really do is create apoplexy in the postman.

But let me not be so harsh in my criticism of these places, after all, I am no businessman. Perhaps if I were in the unlikely position of finding myself in golf course ownership, I too would stoop to such cheap marketing tactics in an effort to at least get the punters to visit my course the once. Maybe if I did possess an 80-acre pylon infested course, with a three in one slope adjacent to the M62, I would call the resultant assault to the optic nerve Royal Mountain Springs National Golf Links, or words to that effect. Maybe I too would then go about naming the holes "Tiger's Torment" or "Nick's Nemesis" in a flagrant defilement of the names of the famous, so as to suggest that they had been within a hundred miles of the first tee mat.

Getting the name right can be of enormous importance, if you happen to be organising a golf society. For starters, the worst thing you can do is name it after the public house in which you regularly gather for comradeship and the unselfish exchange of intellectual supposition and debate. Likewise, if it is named after the golfing standards upheld by the majority of your patrons. No, no, this is just asking for trouble. What Course Manager is going to go out of his way to present his course in the best possible condition, if they see on the start sheet. White Horse GS or Harry's Hackers? No this is just the circumstance for name embellishment. So call the society The Institute of Directors, or The Society of Connoisseurs or such like. Better still why not engage in a bit of harmless deception and name your society after a division of a governing body, or indeed a fictitious tournament of apparent merit. The R&A Open Venue Inspection Golfing Society, or The County Greenkeepers Championship, for example. That way you should get some real quality course presentation on the day of your visit, which should as we all know be booked a) on a Friday afternoon and b) as near to the venue's club championship as is possible. That way, you should get Augusta National for your 30 quid.

But to exhaust totally the subject of naming within our

profession, may I make a tenuous link by mentioning the habits of one or two of those exclusive clubs in the stockbroker belt of London. Here they indulge in the delightfully eccentric custom of employing a calligrapher to hand write the names of the owners of a changing room locker in gold paint. But above the name of the existing owner are all the names of the previous owners and all with a broad stroke being written diagonally across their name, so as to signify they are no more. I can assume that they have expired, as generally this is the only method of terminating one's membership at such golf clubs. Even internment in an old people's home - which is pretty much the same thing anyway - allows them to keep paying the subs until judgement day. The accomplishment of receiving a locker, at these places, brings with it the full acknowledgement from the membership that the recipient has spent the obligatory 30 odd years on the locker waiting list and is now accepted as a senior member.

But looking at these lockers, it does conjure up thoughts of the fears that may be harboured within those that are at the higher reaches of that list.

Do they look at the lockers and take note of the number of crossed out names on each of them. Some may only have three or four, while others have so many that they are practically being written on the locker room floor. Do they look at them and fear the allocation of a jinxed locker, a locker that according to hushed whispers brings with it the curse of swift and hideous demise, by way of an out of control rotary rough mower, or agonising heart attack brought about by wit-

nessing the lady captain bereft of makeup. The changing room locker at such venerable institutions is like one of those absurdly expensive Aga cookers that affluent country folk possess to help keep them nice and hot in the summer months. They are for life. The question is, how long will that be?

Sandy McDivot, Head Greenkeeper,
Sludgecombe Pay & Play



Feature listing from May 2000

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; Aventis 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

April 2001: Lightning detection; Brockett Hall GC; CGSA report; Fairway Mowers; Irrigation; Sward renovation; BIGGA Essay winner; Turf Disease

May 2001: Foot and Mouth Disease Special Report; Maintenance Facility report; Bunker Sand; ATVs; RainBird Profile; Fineturf Genetics; BTME2002 countdown; Electric-powered machines

June 2001: Stoke Park Club profile; Stuart Cagle MG; Tractors; Leaf Spot Disease; Take All Patch; Construction

July 2001: Royal Lytham profile; Tees Mowers; Fertilisers; Green Grasses; John Deere profile; Sandy McDivot; College Listings

August 2001: Aeration Survey; Machrie GC profile; Rough Mowers; Saltex Preview; Dr Alan Gange - environmental research; Hayter Profile; Ponds; Open Championship review; Toro Student of the Year profile;

September 2001: Ryder Cup preview; Chafer Grubs; Drainage; BIGGA National Championship preview; Sandy McDivot; Machinery Maintenance; Soil Analysis; Wild Flowers

October 2001: Major Award for Walter Woods; Royal Portrush GC; Portstewart GC; Irrigation; Soil biodiversity; Leaf collection systems; Scotsturf preview/ Saltex review

November 2001: BIGGA National Championship review; Environment Competition winner; Spraying; Toro Awards Preview; Cutting regimes; Dyke GC

December 2001: Toro Award Winners; Southern Gailes GC; BTME preview; Specialty equipment; Thatch removal

January 2002: Walton Heath profile; Greenkeeping in Denmark; Moving materials; A first for Andy Campbell; New products

February 2002: Harrogate 2002 Review; Drainage; Castlerock GC; Trees; Recycling; TurfTrax profile; Barn Owl special report

March 2002: Donnington Valley profile; Utility vehicles; Essay competition winner; Irrigation; Seeds; Sandy McDivot

May 2002: Heyrose GC profile; Bernhards' Scholarship; De-stress your greens; COSHH assessments; Rootzones and topdressing; Maintenance facilities; Essay competition



Richard Barker managed to secure a Masters ticket and made the most of his first trip to Augusta National

Ambition fulfilled



Two points to start this article. First of all, I don't know about you but if anybody invites me to listen to their holiday stories, or look at their photographs I cringe, make some suitable excuse and leave, but that's exactly what I am going to do because I believe I have a reasonably interesting story. But if you don't want to continue, close the magazine now.

Secondly, in my year as Chairman, I never dreamt that I would be putting pen to paper at 500mph and 35,000 feet.

So why should you be interested in my holiday story? Well to be honest at very short notice I obtained a ticket for the Masters and also the opportunity of a room in Augusta, which for 51 weeks are easily obtainable but are at a premium for one week in April.

Before I continue and you start putting pen to paper I would like to make it quite clear that this trip had nothing to do with Association business. It was organised and funded by myself.

So, problem number one was getting from England to Augusta - easy you may think, but not this week. So let's try England to Atlanta. Also not easy but I did manage, but it had to be via Chicago. Arriving pretty late meant staying in Atlanta on Sunday April 7. Not a problem.

Problem number two though was Atlanta to Augusta. Well, I did this via

a Greyhound bus which involved a one hour stop over in downtown Atlanta. If you ever get a chance to visit here, DON'T GO. Pulling into the bus station there was a sign saying "Beware of your Surroundings and Don't Follow Strangers". Believe me, I felt as though I was in very hostile surroundings, along with 30 Mike Tyson lookalikes. I spent most of my time staring at the floor.

The same could also be said for the arrival in Augusta. In fact, I was wondering if I had come to the right place! Certain areas of the town were very downbeat and reminded me of the ghettos and slave trade that can be seen in old films. But my arrival at my accommodation soon made me feel better.

Well, Tuesday morning soon arrived and I was making my way to fulfilling a life long ambition. I still couldn't believe I was there but still hoping there wouldn't be a last minute hitch.

Before long the cab driver said "You're here" I couldn't believe it. On my left was a Freemasons' Centre, a garage, a jewellers and numerous fast food chains, not to mention a shopping centre while on my right was a big open space later to be occupied by numerous TV company vehicles and press cars, not where you would expect to find one of the most famous places in golf. But on presenting my ticket and walking through the trees I was faced with the most magnificent view of Augusta National Golf Club.

Before watching golf, I decided to familiarise myself with the layout. I had seen the back nine many times on TV before, but nevertheless decided to walk the whole course. The first thing that became apparent apart from the immaculate condition was the change in elevation from tee to green. In two or three cases there was a change of nearly 100 feet from tee to green.

Wednesday saw the famous par-3 competition won by Nick Price after a play-off on five under par. This short but challenging course was truly magnificent, just like the main course and saw Tori Izawa record successive holes-in-one. Quite a feat, although he didn't go on to beat Nick Price.

As for the tournament days, you possibly watched more action that I did as

I spent some of my time sheltering from the torrential downpours.

Typically, Augusta style, it was extremely difficult to glean any information on course matters but talking to a member of staff operating the Sub Air System (drawing water from the drainage system) led to a visit to the compound. To me this was beyond belief and, comparing it to what we have back home, really quite depressing.

Both the Superintendent and Assistant had substantial offices, as did the guy responsible for hole moving, not to mention two receptionists. Within the compound there was a trial green for testing products and also a soil testing laboratory complete with microscopes for soil and grass analysis.

The well equipped workshops were manned by three mechanics although this was increased to six for the week of the Masters. The hand tool implement building was equivalent to most facilities in the UK and as far as the main implement building it was massive, but it had to be for all the mowers. I for one, witnessed nine rough mowers on one hole, not to mention 11 fairway mowers cutting one fairway. Quite a sight!

As for staff facilities, they were most impressive, with an adjoining training centre. But then I suppose with 40 regular greenstaff and 30 nursery staff you need plenty of room. Not to mention the additional 50 staff drafted in for the Masters.

Just remember, despite us not having the climate, the next time your members drop subtle remarks about your course compared to Augusta just ask them for an additional 35 staff and an increased budget. Oh, and by the way, close the course for five months. I am sure they will oblige without any complaints and your course will look better too.

Truly a memorable week and one I won't forget for a long time.

Richard Barker

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