

## DON'T GET TYRED OUT

Jon McGott gives some excellent advice on tyre maintenance.

Maintenance of tyres and wheels is one of the most important jobs in the workshop, because without working tyres in good condition your expensive machine, is effectively useless, and you then have to start counting the cost of downtime.

A little time spent once a day, or every two days at most, can pay dividends in spotting potential tyre problems before they bring your machine to a stop.

Check the outside of the tyres carefully for any cuts, bulges or penetrating objects. Any of these must be attended to before the tyre is put back into service. If your tyre dealer tells you the tyre is scrap, do not assume he just wants to sell you a new tyre, he may, but if he is worth his salt he will be giving good advice.

When you replace tyres, make sure the replacement is the same in terms of its carrying capacity, and speed rating. Many manufacturers have several versions of one size to suit different applications, and you need to ensure yours is correct.

Do not be tempted to try and re-use a tubeless tyre by inserting a tube. If the damage is sufficient to render the tyre non tubeless, it is probably sufficient to drastically shorten the working life of the tyre, as well as damaging the tube, and also many tubeless tyres have internal ribbing which will chafe tubes and ultimately cause a deflation.

If you are already using tubes, and have a puncture, do not repair the tube - replace it! Make sure the tube is the correct size for the tyre, and always use new tubes in new tyres.

None of this is "rocket science" - just common sense, but at the end of the day it is your licence, your contract, your livelihood, and possibly your life at risk if you do not do this most simple of tasks.

Jon McGott is Technical Support Manager for Trelleborg Wheel Systems UK Ltd.



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# MOWER TALES

Roland Taylor concludes his three part series looking at the development of mowing



Mowing is very different now from Old Tom Morris' time!

The time is 7.30am, the year is 1820 and the location is somewhere on a golf course in the UK. A greenkeeper is busily putting the final edge on his scythe, ready for a morning of cutting greens. Today it is hard to imagine this situation, but this was the only method of cutting grass short at that time and it required a considerable amount of skill to achieve reasonable results.

Records show that when scything an acre of grass it would take three men a day and then all the cut material had to be raked up and the lawn rolled. The grass cutting operation was carried out early in the morning when there was plenty of dew about as this helped the grass to stand to the scythe.

Sometime during the next decade, in the Gloucestershire town of Stroud, a mill engineer by the name of Edwin Budding was about to change the playing of sports on turf and garden design, throughout the world. He



invented the cylinder lawnmower. These new machines were well received by the gardening fraternity but virtually shunned by the greenkeepers of the day. These first mowers were heavy to use because of their crude gear drives from the rear roller to the cutting cylinder. In most cases they needed two people to operate one to steer and a second, usually a young lad, to pull the machine.

It was over 60 years from those first introductions before they were accepted by greenkeepers. One of the reasons claimed was the poor finish; it is hard to believe these machines were not an improvement. Why there was a reluctance to change is not clear, one theory is the lack of money and the acceptance of relatively poor putting surfaces. It must have been a daunting task to cut 18 greens using a push mower especially as most courses had minimal greenkeeping staff. Although petrol powered units had been introduced there was still very little enthusiasm for using them.

Another 30 years were to pass before the first specifically designed mower for cutting greens appeared in 1924 - the Ransomes Certes. Where these specialist mowers were used the difference in the playing surface soon became too apparent and players, through their greens committee no doubt, put pressure on the greenkeeper and his staff.

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In 1936, to increase productivity Ransomes introduced the Overgreen. This was a powered towing unit with large pneumatic tyres which pulled three of the Certes push mowers.

Then 1950 saw the launch of the Auto Certes. This was the first purpose built petrol engine mower for producing a good putting surface. Other manufacturers were quick to catch on and a number of this type of mower appeared on the market.

By the 60's society was changing as people had more leisure time and this bought with it an increased interest in sporting activities. With more courses being built throughout the world, there was a need for efficient methods of mowing and by the end of the decade triple ride-on greens mowers were beginning to appear in the UK being imported from America. There was considerable resistance to this method of cutting compared to pedestrian operated greens mowers and in some quarters the pros and cons are still debated today. One argument was that if larger units were used on the green there was the likelihood that increased compaction would occur. The quality of finish was also another area of contention. Some courses compromised, and still do, by using ride-ons generally and pedestrian mowers on match days and other important events.

With the advent of more advanced hydraulics, smaller compact engines and electronics the modern greens ride-on is far removed from those earlier models and is equipped to cover virtually every type of putting surface. One downside is the turning area required.

#### TRIPLE RIDE-ONS

If all the mowers that are now available from different manufacturers were placed in a line, they will have different body work and covers but the actual nuts and bolts under these are likely to be the very similar. The chances are the engines will be from the same stable or closely similar in design, as will be the hydraulic systems, cylinders and bedknives.

Most readers will have their own preferences for certain manufacturers and models but there is a good case for actually carrying out some research and evaluating more than one model before making that final decision. There are a number of areas that need to be taken into account. The possibility of increasing compaction is a major factor, so the total weight of the machine plus operator and full tank of fuel is a good starting point.



The most important areas are the cutting units and the system that operates them. The efficiency of hydraulics depends on a constant pressurised oil flow, so if a single pump has to operate a number of facilities then the mower's efficiency might be reduced. Triples that have hydraulic systems specifically dedicated for lift, power steering and cylinder and wheel motors are features worth taking into account.

The time taken, and how easy it is, to remove or refit a cutting unit to the carrying frame, will have a bearing on servicing and down time. How the units are suspended, determines where any weight is being applied by such components as lifting arms and grass boxes, to either the cutting units or power unit's main frame.

Both cutting height and cylinder adjustments need to be easily accessible and carried out with preferably no special tools.

Ergonomics now play a major part in the design of most commercial machines and a great deal of attention is paid to operator comfort and safety. Fully adjustable steering columns and seats to suit different size operators are commonplace. Another feature, to be on the look out for, is the amount of visibility from the driving seat.

Electronic and computer technology has crept into some of the latest machines, mainly in the form of monitoring systems. These are mainly for analysing the electric circuitry and hydraulics to identify a failure point if it occurs.

Modern petrol and diesel engines require less servicing than their former counterparts, but they still need to be checked regularly if they are to give optimum performance, long life and minimal pollution.



#### PEDESTRIAN GREENS MOWERS

No one has yet come up with a mowing system that can match Budding's original idea.

Today's version is obviously more sophisticated but the principle remains the same. So what innovations have taken place over the last few years?

Designers have taken into account the balance of the mower, its turning and manoeuvrability. Greens are rarely flat and to gain the extra finish means mowing as low as possible without scalping. This has seen the introduction of machines that follow any ground contours closely, due to the fact the cutting unit flexes both from side to side and forward and back without altering the cutting height. Like the triple units these machines incorporate many features that make precision cutting easy on the operators and cause them minimal fatigue.

#### In the future

There is no doubt that the demand for both triple and pedestrian mowers will continue probably at the same ratio. If there were any new, innovative methods of mowing greens on the market, or in the pipeline, the chances of them becoming established would take a considerably long time if the history of the petrol powered greensmower is anything to go by.

Where any changes are likely to occur is in the traction units.

Modern engines are far quieter and cleaner than those produced a decade ago. Some engine manufacturers have long been turning their attention to alternative fuels such as LPG and specifically designed units that operate on this are beginning to find their way on to the market. Conversion kits to LPG are also readily available for most makes of engine.

The use of alternative materials that lower the weight of the mower which are just as durable and give as long a life as those used previously.

The highly competitive market place that manufacturers now find themselves in, means they have to be continually looking for ways of improving their ranges. This situation tends to lean heavily in the users interest, as each company strives to make their equipment more cost effective, easier to operate and produce exceptional playing results.

Golf green maintenance has come a long way over the last few decades and although there appeared to be slowness in accepting the turfcare machinery, especially mowers that were available at one stage, it certainly has caught up today.

Next time you are cutting greens in your mobile armchair surrounded by all those gizmos, spare a thought for your predecessors at the beginning of the last century. I bet you are glad you are managing a course in 2003 and not in 1820.

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# Learning

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As a member of the Greenkeepers Training Committee, BIGGA is actively involved in raising the Standard of Greenkeeper Training. The range and quality of training now available means that there is a training course for every greenkeeper which should improve the quality of greenkeeping and help to produce quality golf courses.



Golf Course Managers should ensure that their staff are trained to the highest standards, beginning by selecting a training provider that meets the criteria laid down by the GTC.

There is a clear link between education, training and economic success and if you think that training is expensive then try ignorance.

Ken Richardson  
Education and Training Manager,  
British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association  
Tel: 01347 833800  
Email: [education@bigga.co.uk](mailto:education@bigga.co.uk)  
Website: [www.bigga.org.uk](http://www.bigga.org.uk)

The Greenkeepers Training Committee (GTC) is continually striving to raise the standards of Golf Course Maintenance and Management and they are totally committed to ensuring that the range of qualifications are relevant to the Sportsturf sector and used by Employers for recruitment and by trainees for their own personal development.



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For up to date independent advice on qualifications, education and training courses contact the GTC on: Tel: 01347 838640

Email: [golf@the-gtc.co.uk](mailto:golf@the-gtc.co.uk)  
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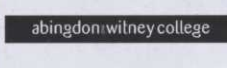

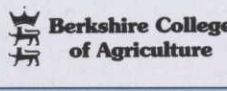

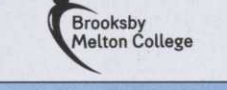



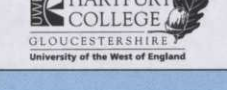




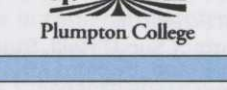
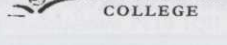
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# GREENKEEPER TRAINING

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	<p><b>ASKHAM BRYAN COLLEGE</b> Askham Bryan, York, North Yorkshire, YO23 3FR <b>Contact:</b> Central Admissions <b>Tel:</b> 01904 772211 <b>Fax:</b> 01904 772288 <b>Email:</b> sf@askham-bryan.ac.uk <b>Web:</b> www.askham-bryan.ac.uk <b>Information:</b> National Certificate in Horticulture, National Diploma in Horticulture (Turf Option), Higher National Certificate in Horticulture (Golf Course Management): part-time study, Higher National Diploma in Horticulture (Golf Management Option) all available full or part time. Block release courses: NVQ Level 2 Greenkeeping, NVQ Level 3 Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Maintenance, NVQ Level 4 Amenity Horticulture. Short courses: FEPA spraying, chainsaw and brushcutter courses.</p>
	<p><b>BERKSHIRE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE</b> Hall Place, Burchetts Green, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 6QR <b>Contact:</b> Andy Williams <b>Tel:</b> 01628 824444 <b>Fax:</b> 01628 824695 <b>Email:</b> enquiries@bca.ac.uk <b>Web:</b> www.bca.ac.uk <b>Information:</b> Located in the Thames Valley, BCA has excellent resources for horticultural based training including a six-hole golf training facility opened by HRH The Duke of York. Programmes include the First Diploma, National Certificate and National Diploma in Horticulture, with Landscape Design and Greenkeeping options plus Higher National Diploma/Certificate programmes. Part-time programmes include NVQ Level 2 and 3 Amenity Horticulture, Sports Turf. Residential accommodation is available.</p>
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	<p><b>MYERSCOUGH COLLEGE</b> Bilsborrow, Preston, Lancashire, PR3 0RY <b>Contact:</b> Colin Stanfield <b>Tel:</b> 01995 642222/642305 <b>Fax:</b> 01995 642333 <b>Email:</b> mailbox@myerscough.ac.uk <b>Web:</b> www.myerscough.ac.uk <b>Information:</b> Full time courses; BSC (Hon's) Turfgrass Science, Foundation Degree Sportsturf Science - online option by distance learning, ND Turf Science &amp; Sportground Maintenance: National Certificate in Groundsmanship and Greenkeeping, also Sports Turf Mechanisation option: First Diploma in Greenkeeping; Turf Science: NVQ 2, 3 &amp; 4 Greenkeeping Management delivered both in the work place and over the internet using the colleges 'Molnet System'. Part-time courses NVQ Level 2 &amp; 3 Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Maintenance (Day/block release or Fast track work-based training qualification). All higher education courses can be accessed on a part time basis. HNC Turf Science: FEPA Short courses. NPTC Certificates of competence in the safe use of mowers and turfcare equipment.</p>
	<p><b>NESCOT - NORTH EAST SURREY COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY</b> Reigate Road, Ewell, Epsom, Surrey, KT17 3DS <b>Contact:</b> Mr Colin S Smith <b>Tel:</b> 020 8394 3220 <b>Email:</b> info@nescot.ac.uk <b>Web:</b> www.nescot.ac.uk <b>Information:</b> NVQ Levels I, II and III in Amenity Horticulture (Greenkeeping options). Part time Day Release. Duration: Two years to Level II. FEPA Spraying Courses. Also available - RHS General and Advanced Certificates in Horticulture. RHS Diploma in Horticulture.</p>
	<p><b>OAKLANDS COLLEGE</b> St Albans Smallford Campus, Hatfield Road, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL4 0JA <b>Contact:</b> Ian Merrick <b>Tel:</b> 01727 737000 <b>Fax:</b> 01727 737752 <b>Email:</b> ian.merrick@oaklands.ac.uk <b>Web:</b> www.oaklands.ac.uk <b>Information:</b> Full time courses: National Certificate in Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Management. Part-time courses: leading to NVQ Level 2 &amp; 3 Greenkeeping, Modern Apprenticeships. Evening Courses: leading to NVQ Level 4. Short Courses: Pesticide, Chainsaw.</p>
	<p><b>PLUMPTON COLLEGE</b> Ditchling Road, Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 3AE <b>Contact:</b> David Blackmur <b>Tel:</b> 01273 890454 <b>Fax:</b> 01273 890071 <b>Email:</b> enquiries@plumpton.ac.uk <b>Web:</b> www.plumpton.ac.uk <b>Information:</b> HNC (Sportsturf, subject to validation) National Diploma in Amenity Horticulture, National Award (Garden Design), First Diploma in Horticulture. Part time courses: NVQ Level 1; NVQ Level 2 in Amenity and Sportsturf; NVQ Level 3 Landscaping and Sportsturf; NVQ Level 4. Also available are RHS General and RHS Advanced; IOG National Technical and Intermediate National Diploma. Short courses are also available for FEPA spraying and chainsaw.</p>
	<p><b>REASEHEATH COLLEGE</b> Nantwich, Cheshire, CW5 6DF <b>Contact:</b> Brian Jones <b>Tel:</b> 01270 613236 <b>Fax:</b> 01270 625665 <b>Email:</b> brianj@reaseheath.ac.uk <b>Web:</b> www.reaseheath.ac.uk <b>Information:</b> Full time First Diploma Horticulture (Sportsturf Option) - 1 year. National Diploma Horticulture (Sportsturf Option) - 2 years. BTEC Higher National Diploma Golf Course Management - 3 years. Part time: HNC - contact tutor for details, NVQ Levels 1-4 Greenkeeping with Flexible Learning options. Short courses: FEPA, Chemical Safety; Safe Lifting; Chainsaws, Off-Road Vehicle Driving; First Aid. NPTC Certificate of Competence.</p>

# Training providers guide

## Available courses guide

This guide is not exhaustive and a full list of GTC approved training providers can be obtained from the GTC. The Greenkeepers Training Committee (GTC) are continually reviewing the approved status of training providers offering greenkeeper training courses. Anyone with a query regarding greenkeeper training should contact the Greenkeeper Training Committee at Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF, Tel: 01347 838640 or visit their website at <http://www.the-gtc.co.uk>

### ENGLAND



**SPARSHOLT COLLEGE HAMPSHIRE** Sparsholt, Winchester, Hampshire, SO21 2NF **Contact:** Ray Broughton **Tel:** 01962 776441 **Fax:** 01962 776587  
**Email:** [rbroughton@sparsholt.ac.uk](mailto:rbroughton@sparsholt.ac.uk) **Web:** [www.sparsholt.ac.uk](http://www.sparsholt.ac.uk) **Information:** NVQ Level 2 Greenkeeping Practice, NVQ Level 3 Greenkeeping Supervision, City & Guilds Phase IV Management Studies, National Diplomas in Golf Course Management and Golf Studies, National Certificate in Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Management. GTC: Greenkeeping Certificate, GTC: Certificate in Golf Course Supervision, FEPA: Short courses, Chainsaws. Phase IV and NVQ Level 2 are offered on block release and day release. Full residential facilities available. Sparsholt College provides education and training in the land-based industries.



**THE COLLEGE OF WEST ANGLIA** Milton Campus **Contact:** Bob Young **Tel:** 01223 860701 **Email:** Student Support at King's Lynn on 01553 761144 Ext 271  
**Information:** The College of West Anglia offers a full range of courses for Greenkeepers including; NVQ Level 2 Sportsturf (Greenkeeping and Groundsmanship), NVQ Level 3 Sports Turf Maintenance. GTC Craft Certificate, GTC Certificate in Golf Course Supervision, TDLB Assessors awards. FEPA, Chain Saws, MO1.  
 Other Courses: National and First Diploma in Horticulture and Garden Design.



**WARWICKSHIRE COLLEGE** Royal Leamington Spa & Moreton Morrell, Moreton Morrell, Warwick, Warwickshire, CV35 9BL **Contact:** Andrew Turnbull **Tel:** 01926 318258  
**Fax:** 01926 318300 **Email:** [enquiries@warkscol.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@warkscol.ac.uk) **Web:** [www.warkscol.ac.uk](http://www.warkscol.ac.uk) **Information:** Greenkeeping Courses: HNC Sports Turf & Golf Course Management (Day Release 2 year Programme also distance learning option); NVQ Level 2 & 3 Day Release and Workbased Option (we come to you); two year ND in Horticulture with Turf Option; BTIA Certificate in Turf Irrigation. Short Courses: Computing for the Greenkeeper - various times throughout the year - ring for details. FEPA; Spraying Certification, Chainsaw Certification; TDLB; First Aid. Also RHS General and Diploma, PA1, PA2A and PA6. Professional Certificate/Diploma in Greenkeeping. Advanced National Certificate in Sports Turf Management - 2 year day release.



**WRITTLER COLLEGE** Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 3RR **Contact:** David Campbell **Tel:** 01245 424200 **Fax:** 01245 420456 **Web:** [www.writtle.ac.uk](http://www.writtle.ac.uk)  
**Information:** SPORTSTURF PROGRAMMES NVQ Level 2 - Sportsturf: NVQ Level 3 - Sportsturf Maintenance. NVQ Levels 2 & 3 - Amenity Horticulture. HNC - Sportsturf Science. HND - Sportsturf and Golf Course Management. Other Programmes; National Certificate. National Diploma (with Sportsturf Option). BSc (Hons) Sportsturf Science and Management. BSc (Hons) Horticulture. BSc (Hons) Landscape and Amenity Management. MSc Landscape and Amenity Management. NVQ 2 and 3 Service Engineering. First Diploma Agriculture (Mechanisation), C & G Agricultural Mechanics Certificate. FEPA. Chainsaw. Tractor Driving.

### IRELAND

#### NORTHERN IRELAND



**GREENMOUNT COLLEGE** Antrim, County Antrim, Northern Ireland BT41 4PU **Contact:** Paul Campbell **Tel:** 028 94 426794 **Email:** [paul.campbell@dardni.gov.uk](mailto:paul.campbell@dardni.gov.uk)  
**Web:** [www.greenmount.ac.uk](http://www.greenmount.ac.uk) **Information:** Day release courses to (a) NVQ Level II Greenkeeping and Sportsturf, (b) NVQ Level III Golf Course Supervision, (c) Advanced National Certificate in Horticulture (Sportsturf), (d) National Diploma & Higher National Diploma turf options FEPA, Health and Safety and a range of short courses.

#### REPUBLIC OF IRELAND



**TEAGASC COLLEGE** College of Amenity Horticulture, National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, Dublin, DUBLIN 9, Republic of Ireland  
**Contact:** Pat Suttle **Tel:** 00353 18040201 **Fax:** 00353 18040212 **Email:** [psuttle@kinsealy.teagasc.ie](mailto:psuttle@kinsealy.teagasc.ie) **Web:** [www.teagasc.ie](http://www.teagasc.ie)  
**Information:** Courses offered: Level 3 Certificate in Greenkeeping. Level 3 Certificate in Golf Course Management. National Diploma in Horticulture (Greenkeeping Major offered).

### SCOTLAND



**ELMWOOD COLLEGE** Cupar, Fife, KY15 4JB **Contact:** Ann Bain **Tel:** 01334 658842 **Fax:** 01334 658888 **Email:** [abain@elmwood.ac.uk](mailto:abain@elmwood.ac.uk) **Web:** [www.elmwood.ac.uk](http://www.elmwood.ac.uk)  
**Information:** Full time National Certificate Greenkeeping: Block Release SVQ Level II, SVQ Level III Sportsturf block release and Outreach available, and SVQ Level IV, HNC/D Golf Course Management available as full-time, block release and distance learning. HNC Golf Facility Management, HND Golf Facility Management, PDA for football and cricket available both block release and Outreach. FEPA and COSHH, chainsaws, tree climbing and rescue techniques and Health and Safety short courses also available.



**GOSTA TRAINING LTD** 5E Clydeaway Centre, 45 Finnieston Street, Glasgow, G3 8JU **Contact:** Chris Bothwell **Tel:** 0141 248 2772 **Fax:** 0141 248 2453  
**Email:** [learn@gostatraining.co.uk](mailto:learn@gostatraining.co.uk) **Information:** SVQ II, III and IV also Modern Apprenticeship in Sportsturf including other options and GTC Training Manual. Attendance Day/Block release from November - March. Distance Learning also available. Short courses with certification include Pesticides, Chainsaw, First Aid, Risk Assessment, Abrasive Wheels, Full Range of Machinery Courses, Manual Handling and Fire Extinguisher training. Consultancy service for Health and Safety Policy development, Site Risk Audits, Machinery Permit to Use system, COSHH and Noise Assessment.



**LANGSIDE COLLEGE** Rutherglen Campus, Buchanan Drive, Rutherglen, Glasgow, G73 3PF **Contact:** Colin S Urquhart **Tel:** 0141 647 6300 **Email:** [colinurq@perseus.langside.ac.uk](mailto:colinurq@perseus.langside.ac.uk)  
**Information:** SVQ, SGA, HNC, HND. Full time and part-time courses in Greenkeeping, Groundsmanship, Golf Course Management, Horticulture, Land and Environment and Applied Ecology. Short courses for land-based industries including Risk Assessment and Pesticides.



**OATRIDGE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE** Ecclesmachan, By Broxburn, West Lothian, Edinburgh, EH52 6NH **Contact:** Steve Miller **Tel:** 01506 854387 **Fax:** 01506 853373  
**Email:** [info@oatridge.ac.uk](mailto:info@oatridge.ac.uk) **Web:** [www.oatridge.ac.uk](http://www.oatridge.ac.uk) **Information:** HNC In Golf Course Management (Part-time): Full-time National Certificate in Greenkeeping: SVQ Level II and GTC Manual (Day and Block Release); SVQ Level 3 Sportsturf & SVQ Level 3 Fast Track (Day and Block Release) SVQ Level III in Service Engineering, full range of Amenity Horticulture, Landscaping and other land based subjects at HND and HNC, National Certificate and SVQ Levels; Short Course - FEPA, Chainsaw, Forklift, First Aid.

### WALES



**PENCOED COLLEGE** Pencoed, Bridgend, Cardiff, CF35 5LG **Contact:** Paul Discombe or John Sullivan **Tel:** 01656 302672 **Fax:** 01656 302601  
**Email:** [pdiscombe@bridgend.ac.uk](mailto:pdiscombe@bridgend.ac.uk) **Web:** [www.bridgend.ac.uk](http://www.bridgend.ac.uk) **Information:** NVQ Sportsturf Level 2-3, HNC/HND Turf Management. National Certificate/Advanced National Certificate - Sportsturf Management. Short courses: PA1, PA2 PA6a and Chainsaws. NCH National Certificate in Horticulture. Advanced National Certificate in Horticulture.



**Welsh College Of Horticulture** Northop Mold, Flintshire CH7 6AA **Contact:** Graham Wright **Tel:** 01352 841034 **Fax:** 01352 841031 **Email:** [graham.wright@wcoh.ac.uk](mailto:graham.wright@wcoh.ac.uk)  
**Web:** [www.wcoh.ac.uk](http://www.wcoh.ac.uk) **Information:** Full-time - Higher National Diploma in Turf Management. Part-time - Day release Higher National Certificate in Turf Management. Block Week - NVQ Amenity Sportsturf Levels 2-3. Briefing Days - NVQ Level 4, TDLB Assessor Courses D32, 33, 34. Day Courses - FEPA, Chainsaw Certification, First Aid, C.I.E.H.



## Market Leaders in land-based qualifications

- An internationally recognised Awarding Body
- Delivering accredited, independently assessed qualifications via a network of approved Assessment Centres
- NPTC accredited qualifications are eligible for funding

### Qualifications include:

- ✓ Leisure, Groundsmanship & Greenkeeping
- ✓ Pesticides & Related Awards
- ✓ Forestry & Arboricultural Operations
- ✓ Vertebrate Pest Control

For a full list of our qualifications please contact NPTC:

Tel: 024 7669 6553

Fax: 024 7669 6128

Email: [information@nptc.org.uk](mailto:information@nptc.org.uk) Website: [www.nptc.org.uk](http://www.nptc.org.uk)



Myerscough College

## The Grass is Greener with Myerscough Sportsturf!



### Why Myerscough?

Pioneers in the UK for Sportsturf education provision at degree level, our facilities for the subject are second to none. Our students enjoy placements at the world's most prestigious golf courses.

### What Can I Study?

#### Higher Education Courses

- BSc (Hons) Turfgrass Science
- HNC Turf Science & Golf Course Management
- Foundation Degree in Sportsturf
- On Line Foundation Degree - (by distance learning)

#### Further Education Courses

- NVQ Level I, II, III & IV\* Groundsmanship & Greenkeeping
- First Diploma Groundsmanship & Greenkeeping
- National Certificate Groundsmanship & Greenkeeping
- National Certificate in Sportsturf Machinery
- National Diploma Turf Science & Sportsground Management

\*Offered as work-based options where trainees study within the workplace supported by tutor visits and CD/online materials.

We also have various short course programmes - please contact us for a short course prospectus.

Come along to one of our regular Open Morning - call **01995 642211** for details!



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Myerscough College, Bilsborrow, Preston, Lancashire PR3 0RY

# OAKLANDS COLLEGE

We offer the following qualifications in **GREENKEEPING, LANDSCAPING** and **AMENITY HORTICULTURE:**

NVQ levels 1 - 4

Foundation Modern Apprenticeships

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Pesticide Training

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**01727 737 080**

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OAKLANDS COLLEGE



## YOUR LETTERS ARE NEEDED!

Send to: Scott MacCallum, Editor, Greenkeeper International, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF, or email them to: [scott@bigga.co.uk](mailto:scott@bigga.co.uk)

### Sponsorship Thanks

In January I started my new job at Colne Golf Club, which I am enjoying. I have also had to catch up in my academic studies at Myerscough College, due to the lost time since being made "redundant", as well as preparing for the birth of my second child.

This is just a short letter to thank you for awarding me sponsorship for my continued attendance at Myerscough College to complete my third year of the HND Turf Science and Golf Course Management course.

As you can imagine at the time that I contacted you, shortly after leaving my previous employer, the prospects of me being able to continue with the course were looking remote, due to the financial circumstances. This would have meant that the previous two years of study would have counted for nothing.

However with the generous sponsorship by Ransomes Jacobsen to continue to support students from all backgrounds in various stages of career development, and BIGGA awarding me this sponsorship, it has been possible for me to continue with the course.

Not only has this sponsorship allowed me to continue with my studies, with today being my final exam, the college has nominated me for the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank yourselves and BIGGA for awarding me this sponsorship, as well as a huge thanks to Ransomes Jacobsen for giving all students from different circumstances the opportunity to better themselves and the industry we continue to serve to the best of our professional ability.

Keith Scruton

### Education Process

I've just read the editorial in the latest issue of Greenkeeper and I couldn't agree with you more. In fact I have issued an invitation to the Today Programme to visit us here at Myerscough College to let them see exactly what our Sportsturf Degree students get up to.

However the industry as a whole needs to do more to change the whole way in which greenkeeping/groundsmanship is viewed. To this end my Sportsturf staff and I at Myerscough have embarked on a series of seminars based at regional Sportsturf venues - The Reebok Stadium/Preston North End (02/03) and planned for 03/04 are events in Manchester/Liverpool (Manchester Stadium/Anfield) to which we have invited schools/college careers staff to get an insight into the industry.

At these events we have had leading sportsturf professionals, our own students and some of our staff setting the scene with regard to careers and education/training in sportsturf.

To date they have been well received and we hope to continue this success.

Clearly there will not be an overnight change in attitude.

However isn't this kind of an activity just what BIGGA/GTC/IOG etc should be doing on a national scale? We are very good at talking to ourselves but we need to convince a wider audience - especially the Today audience!

Colin Stanfield

Programme Leader Sportsturf  
Myerscough College

### Well Done!

I would like to congratulate my husband Shaun McMillan, Lochore Meadows Country Park Golf Course, on passing his SVQ Level 2. All the family are very proud of him.

Special thanks must go to Albert Arnott, Shaun's Assessor and Scribe, for all his help. Shaun is due you a drink or two.

Carol Anne McMillan

Via Email

## Whispering Grass

Are you in possession of a juicy piece of gossip and are just dying to tell someone? Or have you just moved job and want to pass on the good news?

A typical example appeared in a recent Around the Green column:

*Who was the person who thought he'd overslept on hearing The Counterfeit Stones playing Honky Tonk Woman in the Majestic Hotel during Harrogate? He jumped up, got himself dressed and down to the ballroom only to discover it was the sound check!*

Let us at Greenkeeper International know and we'll spread the word. Names could be withheld to protect the innocent... or not so innocent!

The Editor will need to know your name, and in specific cases discrete checks made, but he will protect his sources. Just email your info to: [scott@bigga.co.uk](mailto:scott@bigga.co.uk) titled Whispering Grass.

# LEGAL HELP IS ONLY A PHONE CALL AWAY



**“Legal Aid is dead! Long live Legal Aid!” I hear you say, but who knows it?**

Since the law reforms of a little more than 15 years ago, the Government has been whittling away at removing society’s rights to Legal Aid to the point where, by and large, Legal Aid is now non-existent and the key benefit of having a Legal Aid was that one’s opponents could not possibly hope to obtain a costs order against you if you lost your case. Inevitably, your opponent would want to settle your claim because it made economic sense to do so.

But behind the scenes of Whitehall, while these reforms were shaping up, a new form of insurance was in the making – legal fees insurance; a new form of legal assistance.

Without having to be means-tested, this new form of legal aid, could be purchased to cover just about everything that a family might need to protect its legal rights. BIGGA provides legal fees insurance up to the value of £50,000 for every Greenkeeper Member and their family.

So what are my legal rights which might need protecting against? Well, firstly and foremost, your rights to enjoy your home. Mr Young had to endure over a number of years the constant threats and abuse from a family who were neighbours of his. He had been purchasing legal fees insurance since he first moved into his property but did not realise at first whether this would cover him and so the abuse went on until one day, he snapped! Mr Young telephoned our Helpline and we advised him to see a solicitor immediately, which he did. Within four weeks, Mr Young had secured a court order against his neighbours preventing them from contacting him in any way, but it was not until they moved away several months later that he could feel once again secure in his home.

In the news recently, we heard of some 2,500 people employed by The Accident Group (TAG) losing their jobs. While some of these people would have legal fees insurance, there would have been very little by way of

One comment we often hear from the membership is what is the point of the Legal Helpline? The Helpline is provided to all Greenkeeper Members of the Association and many have used the service and found it of benefit. The Helpline not only deals with large problems but can help if you just have a simple query. Maggie Lawton from General Legal Protection writes about the value of the service.

legal help since the company had gone in receivership. But our Legal Helpline would have been able to point these people in the right direction insofar as their rights to state benefits.

TAG was an organisation which built its business on the back of selling “After the Event” (ATE) legal fees insurance. In a recent court case, we hear that one customer of TAG had her injury claim settled at £2,000 but because of the ATE premium, other charges and interest, the customer only received £28.57. Is that justice? Hardly!

So what would have happened if that customer had had the benefit of legal fees insurance as provided to all Greenkeeping Members. Firstly, she would have had nothing to pay towards her legal costs, and more importantly, she would have received the full amount of £2,000.

In a very tragic case, one of our customers who had our legal fees policy, claimed damages on behalf of his then aged six year old daughter. She had been involved in a road accident while sat in her father’s car. The girl sustained horrific injuries and was close to dying several times. After months of hospitalisation, the young girl recovered but would be unable to work and would require constant medical attention for the remainder of her life. Six years on, an out-of-court settlement of £3 million was reached.

So what else might we need this legal fees insurance for? Mr Cresswell bought a new Land Rover but his joy was shortlived. During the first 18 months, it spent more time in the garage than it did with him. He was fed up with it and eventually asked the dealer to replace it but they refused. Mr Cresswell rang our Legal Helpline for advice. Two weeks later, Mr Cresswell rang again to advise that he had successfully persuaded the dealer to exchange his Land Rover for another new one!

If the dealer had continued to refuse to exchange the vehicle, Mr Cresswell would have been entitled to claim under our policy the cost of appointing a solicitor to pursue his case.