

sun is now very hot and the irrigation is needed.

Well enough of me waffling on about banks and amenity areas.

The last golf day was at Channels and once again Ray, Dominic and the boys produced a terrific golf course for 55 of our members to play. (sorry none of the Abridge boys were there but we were in the middle of our clubs anniversary celebrations and could not get the time, but we will be at the next one).

I understand from several people who played that day that from greens to banks to amenity areas the golf course was in great condition. A special thanks to Tony Stuart and family and all of their staff for making everybody feel so welcome.

The day was sponsored by Banks Amenity and the halfway house by Collier Turf and also thanks to Vitax, Headland, Scotts, Seoul Nassau, Total Cleaning Supplies, Ernest Doe's, Tacit, Bishop Brother's engravers, Sheriffs, and Rigby Taylor.

Our overall winner was Craig Serafin, from Colchester, who galloped in with 47 pts. YEEHA! and well done.

We had three handicap sections Section 1: 1. Ian Denny, Channels, 40 pts; 2.
Tony Kirwin, Colchester, 38 pts. Section 2: 1. Martin Forrester, 41 pts; 2. Martin Guy, 40 pts. Section 3: I. Wood, Rumford, 35 pts; 2. John Barnard, Theydon Bois, 34 pts. Longest Drive went to Mark Day. Nearest the Pin went to Mike Bartlett.

Hopefully you all understand Dave Beals new points system, I'm sure Banks would love to employ you Dave.

Finally on behalf of the Section I would like to wish Derek Farrington all the best. He is retiring from the end of May.

See you all at Ballards Gore Geoff Smith

Surrey

Woking Golf Club played host to our Spring Tournament and qualifier for the National Championship. The numbers were restricted to 42 greenkeepers and it was only because Ron Christie could not play that I was lucky enough to get a game.

It was a first time experience to me to play Woking and due to a course in excellent condition and an extremely attractive layout, I hope it will not be long before I play there again.

Our thanks to John Day and his greenkeepers; Woking Golf Club for the courtesy, the sunny weather and Banks Amenity, our generous sponsors. Best Gross: John Mathis; Best Nett: 1. Paul Bacon; 2. Nigel Colley, 3. Dave Murdoch. Longest Drive: Ken Harding. Nearest The Pin: Rob Summers - only 18 inches away, but he got his par!

The heron on the lake at Woking is apparently so used to people that it did not move, even when approached by machinery. Phil Bennett was heard to say that it must be either a brave or a very stupid bird. Most other players thought that being plastic was probably the reason. An appointment at the opticians could be useful.

A word of warning when using mountain bikes to keep fit: Perry Smith, from Bramley, broke his nose and suffered cuts to his face when out riding with his son. Although in pain, he thinks the nose job was well worth it.

Greg Richardson, whose name is appearing far too often in these reports, is again in the news as he has left Hankley Common Golf Club to become Deputy at Cranleigh Golf Club. We all wish him good luck.

Dave Langheim is to join the Surrey Committee and replaces Dave Murdoch as South East Region representative.

This year's sponsors of the Surrey Bowl pairs knockout competition are TYM Tractors. Derek Farrington was presented with a case of red wine as a personal thank you from Surrey Section and we all wish him a very happy retirement.

All players in golf events must either have a handicap certificate (BIGGA or club) or play off 18 maximum.

After two events, players, will be given an official BIGGA Handicap. No prizes can be won until they have an official handicap.

Brian Willmott

Kent

Cloudy skies and welcome light rain gave way to a sunny afternoon during our golf day on 10th June 2004.

The turn-out was good for the time of year, considering everybody has been so busy coping with the phenomenal grass growth.

Thanks must go to Bob Pullin, Managing Director of Hever Castle Golf Club, for allowing us the use of the golf course and facilities. An 18 hole Stableford competition was followed by an excellent meal.

It was good to see some members who had not played golf make the effort to attend the evening meal. Scott MacCallum came down from headquarters and updated us on recent developments within the Association. Scott also had the most outrageous shot of the day – a 37 yard putt holed on the 11th!

Results. Greenkeepers: 1. Russell Bain, Chislehurst; 2. Andrew Pearson, London Club; 3. Andrew Pearson, Hever Castle Golf Club: 4. Tony Neve, Chislehurst. Trade: 1. Chris Mardon, Greenkeeping Services; 2. Nick Ashman, John Deere.

The best gross score of the day went to Gary Ogilvie. Nearest the Pin: 6th, Gary Branchett, Tenterden. Nearest the Pin: 12th, Chris Mardon, Greenkeeping Services, Longest Drive: 9th, Michael Wigston, Tenterden, Longest Drive: 18th, Matthew Savage, Kingshill. Putting competition: Ernie Walker, Hever Castle Golf Club.

I would like to thank Brian Grimes, from Godfreys, for organising refreshments around the course, Nick Ashman, from John Deere, for putting wine on the tables, and Avoncrop, Doe's, Grass Roots, Parker T Parker and Sons (Turf Management 2003), Godfreys and Sherriffs for contributing to the prize table.

Thanks go to the staff of Hever Castle Golf Club for their assistance, and the green staff for their efforts in preparing the golf course, not just for this day but every day of the year.

Finally the biggest thank you must go to the members who supported the day and made it such a success.

Look out for news on future developments and events in the Kent Section. David Wood

NORTHERN IRELAND

Well with a week of June nearly gone, many of our courses would like to see a couple of nights of steady rain. There hasn't been any rain for seven to eight weeks in some areas and water rerstrictions could follow soon as reservoirs are already at late summer levels. Let's hope the situation improves over the next few days.

Our second golf competition of the season was played at Edenmore GC on May 25. We would like to thank the Logan family for giving us courtesy of the course and especially James Logan and his greenkeeping staff for having the course in really brilliant condition.

Many thanks to sponsor Scotts Sands of Toomebridge, who provided very generous prizes.

Results were: 1. Michael King, Royal County Down, 38pts; 2. James Harkness, Malone GC, 36pts; 3. Warren Burnside, Malone GC, 36pts; 4m Michael O'Neill, Fortwilliam GC 35pts. Visitors Prize: James Logan, Edenmore GC, 41pts.

Many thanks to Scotts Director Alan Hewitt, who joined us on the day and presented the prizes.

The next competition will be played at Galgorm GC, outside Ballymena, on July 6 with a 2pm tee time. The competition in July will be sponsored by Coburns, of Banbridge.

Finally, I would like to wish Andrew Kerr good luck in his new position of Head Greenkeeper at City of Derry GC. Andrew has recently moved there from Lisburn GC where he was Deputy Head.

Ken Henderson



The most cost effective way of reaching over 9,000 readers of Greenkeeper International every month.

Just call the Sales Team on 01347 833800 and ask about an alphabetical category listing. The cost starts from as little as £34.00 per month.

A RED LETTER DAY **EXPERIENCE**

Ever wanted to try something out of the ordinary but never had the chance so far? Well this month, we have a fantastic prize for one of you lucky readers. We're giving you a Red Letter Day 'Blue Experience' voucher that will give you the chance to take part in one of a number of exciting, indulgent or unusual experiences, where you decide what to get involved in. All you have to do is answer the 3 questions below.



Entry is simple! Listed below are a series of clues relating to ONE company featured in the ever popular Buyers' Guide. Take care to look through all the products and services shown and write down the name of the company which you think the following clues refer to:

WHO ARE WE?

- 1. Experts in repair and maintenance.
- 2. Based in the South East.
- 3. Website contains 'mobile'.

Write down your name, address and answer on a postcard and send your entries to:

Turftime Teaser, Greenkeeper International, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF.

Entries to arrive no later than July 20th 2004. The first correct entry drawn will receive the fabulous 'Blue Experience' Red Letter Day voucher

This competition is not open to BIGGA Staff, or non-members

The solution to the July Turftime Teaser was 'Fife Silica Sands'. The lucky winner of the DVD's and goodies was Lewis Birch from Abbeydale Golf Club, Sheffield - WELL DONE!

Tel: 01372 456101

www.symbio.co.uk

Northampton NN2 7TA

www.landunitconstruction.co.uk











CLEVELAND GOLF CLUB

Are looking for a

HEAD GREENKEEPER

to lead our Greenkeeping team.

Cleveland, established in 1887, is the only links course in the Yorkshire Union and also the oldest. We are a championship course, Par 72, with practice area situated on the north side of Redcar.

This is an excellent opportunity for a committed self motivated person to take charge of this high quality, genuine Links Golf Course.

The successful candidate will need the following qualifications and abilities: • NVQ Level 3 and spraying qualifications

- NVQ Level 5 and spraying quantications
- Knowledge of the Toro Trident computer controlled irrigation system
- Awareness of and ability to maintain Health & Safety records and standards
 Ability to produce and deliver work programme and discuss with greens committee

Experience of Links courses is preferred.

Salary by negotiation.

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

The Secretary, Cleveland Golf Club, Majuba Road, Redcar, TS10 5BJ Telephone & Fax: 01642 471798

E-mail: majuba@btconnect.com Website: www.clevelandgolfclub.co.uk



ASSISTANT GREENKEEPERS REQUIRED

Founded in 1968 Cherry Lodge is a Private Members' Club. At 6,652 yards the undulating par 72 course enjoys spectacular views over the surrounding Kent countryside, while providing a challenging test for golfers of all standards.

Key skills:

- NVQ Level 2 in Turf Management
- PA1, PA2, PA6 an advantage
- · Knowledge of all types of machinery operation

Reporting to the Course Manager, we are looking for candidates who are hard working and 'team players'.

Please send a letter of application with CV detailing current salary to:

Mr Anthony Sharman, Course Manager, Cherry Lodge Golf Club, Jail Lane, Biggin Hill, Kent TN16 3AX or alternatively email to: info@cherrylodge.co.uk Website: www.cherrylodgegc.co.uk



HARBORNE GOLF CLUB

DEPUTY HEAD GREENKEEPER

Harborne golf club was founded in 1983, designed by Harry Colt in 1924. It comprises two loops of nine holes through undulating mature parkland, the 18 holes measure 6210 yards par 70.

The golf club is situated in Harborne, four miles south-west of the city centre, Birmingham.

- The applicants should ideally possess the following:
- Minimum five years greenkeeping experience
- · Qualified to NVQ level 2 or simular
- PA1, PA2 & PA6 spraying certificates
- · Have experience of current Health & Safety regulations
- Be enthusiastic and well motivated
- Able to manage and motivate members of all staff and to assist the Head Greenkeeper in taking the course forward
- · Deputize in the absence of the Head Greenkeeper

Salary negotiable depending on qualifications and experience.

Closing date for applications 30th July 2004.

Application in writing with full C.V. to: Tony Luckman, Head Greenkeeper, Harborne Golf Club, 40 Tennal Road, Harborne Birmingham, B32 2JE

KILKEEL GOLF CLUB

Invites applications for the position of

HEAD GREENKEEPER

Kilkeel is rapidly developing into one of the best 18 hole Parkland/ Tree-lined golf courses in the country. Due to the impending retirement of the present post holder, we are seeking to appoint a suitably qualified person to assume this important role and progress the golf course and the staff to the next stages in their respective developments.

The successful applicant should possess recent relevant experience, be physically fit, a proven motivator and leader and should have the following attributes:

- HNC/HND or NVQ to Level 3 with PA1, PA2 and PA6
 - Understanding of modern Greenkeeping practices
 - Knowledge of machinery and irrigation systems
 - Enthusiasm and self- motivation
- Knowledge of Health and Safety best practice and First Aid Training
 Computer literacy

Salary and conditions will be commensurate with experience and qualifications.

Please apply in writing with full CV to:

The Honorary Secretary, Kilkeel Golf Club, Mourne Park, Kilkeel, Co Down, Northern Ireland BT34 4LB

Closing date 30th July 2004.

Kilkeel Golf Club is an Equal Opportunities Employer

DUDSBURY GOLF CLUB

DEPUTY HEAD GREENKEEPER

Dudsbury Golf Club was opened in 1992 and is a Donald Steel designed course, situated in 160 acres of undulating countryside, with nine lakes, bordering the beautiful River Stour.

We are a championship course having hosted Euro Pro events, PGA West Region Order of Merit Championships and the EGU McGregor Trophy.

We have a vacancy for a committed, enthusiastic and motivated greenkeeper to join our existing team as we strive continually to improve our golf course.

All applicants must be qualified to NVQ 2/3 with PA1,2 and 6 spraying certificates.

The successful applicant must have knowledge of Health and Safety Legislation and be able to motivate other members of the team when deputising for the Head Greenkeeper.

Salary negotiable depending upon experience.

Written applications with full CV by 21st July 2004 to: Mr CW Legg, Dudsbury Golf Club, Christchurch Road, Ferndown, Dorset. BH22 8ST

COLLIER TURF CARE

East Anglia's Leading Supplier to the Sports and Amenity Trade

REQUIRE TWO TECHNICAL SALES REPRESENTATIVES

To sell their comprehensive range of fertilizers, chemicals, grass seed, spraying aids, spreaders, bio-technology, top dressings, tools and sports equipment in:

| | Suffolk & Norfolk | |
|-----|-------------------|--|
| n(s | London & Surrey | |

- Are you a proven Sales Professional looking for a new challenge?
- Do you want to be rewarded for your own skills and create yourself a brighter future?
- Do you have a amenity qualification and want to get into sales?
- Does your present company offer you the right environment to achieve success?
- Do you want to join a unique amenity business?
- We offer a full comprehensive package to the right individuals.

Please apply in writing including full C.V. and current salary to: Mark Bowley, Sales Director, Collier Turf Care Ltd, c/o Larkrise, Dedham Road, Ardleigh, Colchester CO7 7QB.

Closing day for applications 10th August 2004

HEATON MOOR GOLF CLUB

COURSE MANAGER

Heaton Moor Golf Club is a traditional members club founded in 1892 and renowned for its friendly atmosphere. An 18 hole parkland course situated on the outskirts of Stockport, Cheshire and close to the motorway networks.

The candidate will be expected to work with the Club's committee to present members with a course which delivers the highest standards of presentation and playability.

Applicants should ideally possess the following:

- · A minimum of five years experience with demonstrable management experience.
- Recognised greenkeeping / agronomy qualifications (min NVQ level 3, PA1, PA2 & PA6 spraying certificates).
- · Fully compliant with current Health & Safety legislation, to include risk assessments.
- Experience in maintaining golf course machinery and irrigation systems.
- A proven ability to prepare and work within an approved annual budget.
- Strong communication skills are considered critical to the successful fulfilment of the role.
- A proven ability to prepare work programmes and meet deadlines.

Closing date for applications: Friday 23rd July 2004.

Apply in writing with C.V to:

Mr D.S.Carter, Ground Chairman, Heaton Moor Golf Club, Heaton Mersey, Stockport Cheshire SK4 3N

LONGLEY PARK GOLF CLUB

Invites applications for the position of

HEAD GREENKEEPER

The successful applicant must be experienced in modern greenkeeping methods and possess relevant qualifications and spraying certificates.

Applicants should have a knowledge of irrigation equipment and hold a full driving licence.

Closing date 31 July 2004.

Please apply in writing with CV to: T Littlewood, Longley Park Golf Club, Maple Street, Huddersfield HD5 9AX Telephone: 01484 643928 for further details if required

SELSDON PARK HOTEL & GOLF COURSE

This classic 4 star deluxe country house hotel with an 18 Hole Golf Course seeks an experienced and dedicated team player in the following position:

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

We are looking for a dedicated team player to join our young enthusiastic team. The successful applicant will be qualified to NVQ level II or equivalent, Spraying Certificates and machinery experience preferred, but not essential and along with the Greens team maintain our course to the highest standard.

Our benefits package includes competitive salaries, flexible hours, free meals on duty, accommodation if required and excellent training.

Closing date for applicants: Monday 31st July 2004.

Send a full CV to: HR Department, Selsdon Park Hotel & Golf Course, Addington Road, Sanderstead, South Croydon CR2 8YA or email to selsdonpark.hr@principal-hotels.com

SALISBURY & SOUTH WILTS GOLF CLUB

DEPUTY COURSE MANAGER

Due to our present DCM moving on to a Course Managers position, this role has become vacant.

The Deputy Course Manager would work closely with the Course Manager and would be responsible for all work on the Golf Course in the Course Managers absence.

This position would be suited to a candidate who has a minimum of 5 years experience in all aspects of greenkeeping and be capable of demonstrating a professional approach to other members of staff.

He/ she would be qualified to a minimum of NVQ Level 2 and be preferably working towards Level 3. He/ she must also possess PA1, 2 & 6.

We are committed to personal development and training is available to the suitable candidate. Salary is based on experience and qualifications.

Please apply in writing with a current CV to: Mr M Cartwright, Golf Course Manager, Salisbury & South Wilts Golf Club, Netherhampton, Salisbury SP2 8PR

THE BIOLOGICAL APPROACH TO SPORTS TURF, PLANT AND WATER MANAGEMENT

Healthy grass and plants need healthy soil. With 14 years of successful sales and product development behind us Symbio now has a complete range to help sports turf managers present the finest playing surfaces using the minimum of chemicals.

We now seek two regional technical sales managers to assist our expansion in

1) M62 corridor. 2) South East England.

You will be a self starter, highly motivated to provide the best technical advice and support for our customers. You will be computer literate, confident in your presentation skills and ability to meet sales targets and want to learn about new technologies for improving soil fertility. This is a hands on technical role, not catalogue selling, and full training will be given.

We offer an excellent salary, commission, pension, health insurance and car or car allowance.

Closing date 31st July 2004.



Write with your C.V. to Martin Ward, Symbio, 38 Bookham Industrial Park, Bookham, Surrey KT23 3EU.



SYMBIO

REGISTERED FIRM 85 EN ISO 9001:2000 Certificate No: G812052

Tel: 01372 456 101 cemail martin@symbio.co.uk www.symbio.co.uk

TYLNEY PARK GOLF COURSE

COURSE MANAGER

We seek a Course Manager for an immediate start to manage the 'grow-in' period of 6 new holes and 12 re-designed holes on the original course and to maintain re-designed course thereafter. We also have planning permission for 9 further holes at a later stage of development. Experience of new sand rootzone greens essential. Current construction phase completed end of September.

New Clubhouse also to start construction imminently. Golf Course designed by Donald Steel and Company Ltd, a firm of international repute.

The ideal candidate will have a relevant theoretical qualification (preferably NVQ Level 3 in Greenkeeping) plus some 'hands-on' practical experience of between 3- 5 years. In addition Spraying Certificates PA1, PA2 and PA6 would be useful and will have an understanding of health & Safety legislation requirements. People without formal qualifications considered if exceptional track record. On-going professional development supported and encouraged.

Candidate will have to manage effectively 4 other Green Staff and machinery acquisition/maintenance programme. He/she will work alongside the Clubhouse Manager and Proprietor to build up a team that meets the highest standard.

Interviews will be held in July.

Salary competitive and negotiable. Please send CV and covering letter to: Chris de Bruin, Tylney Park Golf Club, Rotherwick, Hook, Hampshire RG27 9AY

WORTHING GOLF CLUB

COURSE MANAGER

Worthing Golf Club, founded in 1905, is a well established private members club with two downland courses, which enjoys an excellent reputation and hosts many top Sussex events. 2005 is Centenary Year and additional prestigious events will be held.

The successful applicant must possess the appropriate qualifications and have experience in all aspects of Golf management, together with the skills to lead and motivate a large team.

Accommodation is provided and is a pre-requisite for the position.

Salary negotiable according to experience.

Closing date for applications 16th July 2004

Application in writing with full CV and current salary to: Ian Evans, Secretary, Worthing Golf Club, Links Road, Worthing, West Sussex, BN14 9QZ Website: www.worthinggolf.co.uk

CANONS BROOK GOLF CLUB

Require an

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Development and full training is available to the suitable candidate.

Salary will be based on experience and qualifications.

Applications please in writing with your CV to: Mrs S Langton - Secretary/ Manager, Canons Brook Golf Club, Elizabeth Way, Harlow, Essex CM19 5BE

WEALD OF KENT

QUALIFIED HEAD GREENKEEPER

required for a privately owned, 18 hole Pay and Play golf course in central Kent. Applicants should be able to demonstrate adequate qualification and experience. We are offering a fair renumeration to the right applicant.

Please apply to: Operations Director, Weald Golf Limited, Maidstone Road, Headcorn, Kent, TN27 9PT Telephone 01622 891671

City of Wakefield Metropolitan District Council



Head Greenkeeper Grade 5 £294.14 Per Week Post Ref. No: E5406

City of Wakefield Golf Course, Lupset, Wakefield, West Yorkshire

A Head Greenkeeper post has arisen due to the impending retirement of the present post holder in July this year. The City of Wakefield Golf Course is a well established Club situated in an attractive countryside location close to the City.

This is a great opportunity for a committed, enthusiastic and motivated Greenkeeper to lead and manage a small team to further develop the maintenance of the Golf Course. Preferably qualified to NVQ3 with PA1, 2 and 6 spraying certificates, it would also be an advantage if you have machinery and irrigation experience.

The successful applicant will be responsible for the daily operation and maintenance of the facility and must be able to lead by example, motivate others and communicate effectively at all levels. The job of Head Greenkeeper will also involve daily contact with Members and Players.

All full-time posts are open to applications on a job share basis. Typetalk calls welcome.

Application forms and further information can be obtained from Environment Services, Normanton Town Hall, High Street, Normanton, WF6 2DZ and may be requested by post, by telephoning Wakefield 01924 307251 (office hours) or -01924 307466 (outside office hours - answer machine) or by emailing jobapppsd@wakefield.gov.uk

Completed forms to be returned to the above address by 16th July 2004.

wakefield A FAST IMPROVING COUNCIL www.wakefield.gov.uk

Feature listing from July 2002

July 2002; Open preview; Turf; Steve Isaccs; Emissions; Grinding; Rotary Mowers; BTME preview; Sandy McDivot

August 2002; BIGGA Golf Day; Open review; Talking Heads - Education & training; Trees; Dr Kate Entwistle; Pwllheli GC; Weather; Compact Tractors; Saltex preview

September 2002; National Championship Preview; Irrigation; Non Grass Cutters; Hawkstone Park; Careers in Greenkeeping

October 2002; Saltex Review; Golden and Silver Key Supporters; Environment Awards; Health & Safety; Sustainable Use of Pesticides

November 2002; Toro Student of the Year; National Championship; Drainage; St Andrew's Bay; Autumn Problems

December 2002; BTME & ClubHouse Preview; R&A Golf Course committee; Dr Kate Entwistle; Pennard GC

January 2003; Beedles Lake Profile; Talking Heads - Chemical Application; Rebuilding Golf Greens; Constructive Advice

February 2003; BTME/ClubHouse Review; Royal Liverpool Profile; Irrigation; Nematodes

March 2003; The Berkshire Profile; Meloidogyne; Overseeding Golf Greens; Talking Heads - Health & Safety

April 2003; Oakmere Park GC; Spraying; Golf Course Security; Bernhards Delegation; Ransomes Jacobsen Profile

May 2003; Cardrona Golf & Counrty Club; Poa Annua; Rough Mowers; Mole Control; Rootzone; Green Construction

June 2003; Irrigation; Ransomes Jacobsen Scholarships; Fertiliser; Fairway Mowers

July 2003; Irrigation Water; Greens Mowers; Bent Grasses; Course Management; Rakes

August 2003; Aeration; Open Review; Saltex Preview; Waste Water; Toro Student of the Year

September 2003; Hanbury Manor; Irrigation; Disease; Integrated Pest Management; Communication

October 2003; Construction Machinery; Pay Recommendations; Saltex Review; Pesticide Legislation; Finance

November 2003; Temple GC; Trees; Environment Competition Results; Sandy McDivot; Drainage

December 2003; BTME & ClubHouse Preview; Downfield GC; Compact Tractors; Architecture; Bio-tech

January 2004; Ipswich GC Profile; Grass Seed; Environment Competition Awards; Utility Vehicles (sit in)

February 2004; Harrogate Review 2004; Tyneside GC; Utility Vehicles (sit on); Irrigation

March 2004; R&A Best Practice; Trentham Park GC; Drainage; Spraying

April 2004; Know your Rules; Tournament Preparation; Landmarks in Greenkeeping; Security

May 2004; Goodwood Club; Seed or Turf?; Biological Product Survey; Water Features; Recycling; BIGGA Environment Competition

June 2004; Fairy Rings; Biologicals; The Grove; Kubota Profile; Turf; Sand and Rootzone

Chairman's Column

Pressed for Time

With nearly half of my year as Chairman nearly gone its finally dawned on me how valuable time is. The very fact that I'm writing this report on yet another flight and (much to Scott's frustration) right on the deadline for submission for the July issue is testament to how difficult it is to fit everything in. I really shouldn't complain however as Travel really does broaden the mind and the opportunity it gives to meet people and forge new relationships is invaluable.



Since the last issue the Imaugural Neil Thomas Memorial Golf Day has been held at Aldwark Manor. On what was inevitably a day of mixed emotions 29 teams enjoyed fine weather and did their bit to raise funds for the Hospice in Harrogate that cared for Neil so well toward the end of his illness. It was a great pleasure to welcome Elaine, Grant, Adam and Natalie back to Aldwark Manor. They are coping admirably with their loss and I hope the words from Walter Woods and Kerran Daly, on behalf of the Master Greenkeepers, were of some pride and comfort.

While trips to Scotland for the R&A's 250th Anniversary Celebrations and the above mentioned Golf Day and combined Board meetings have been most enjoyable, the pace at Carden has not slackened. We are now busy with final preparations for The De Vere PGA Seniors Championship in early August and my team continue to do a great jobhopefully they can now see some light at the end of what appears to have been a long dark tunnel.

Having just watched most of the last days play at the US Open from Shinnecock Hills the thought struck me about how unusual it is to hear players complain about green speeds being too quick! Maybe just maybe you do reap what you sow! With The Open taking place at Royal Troon this year it will be interesting to see what comparisons are drawn. I'm sure that Billy McLachlan will have the superb layout in its finest condition and my best wishes to him for a successful event.

Wherever you are and whatever the size of event(s) you are hosting at this time

Of year they are all important and give us all the opportunity to show the results of our efforts and the

chance to forget, at least for a time, the unrealistic expectations placed upon us each Spring. It's the duty of all of us to keep communicating the wisdom of sound Greenkeeping practices, leading to sustainable conditions, for as much of the year as possible- at least to those who will listen.

For those of you yet to view the R&A Best practice website, I would encourage you to do so and to share the content with your management, members and staff. It's a live working document and one which I feel will have much value to our working lives going forward.

Hopefully you will all be enjoying the chance to share the longer nights with your families or even play your Golf course. It's a tough job we do but the real reason we do it, and for most of the time at least, enjoy it ,can be found by simply walking your course as the sunsets on a Summer evening. I would venture that for all of the Science, business management etc. that we are engaged in today, it's the artistry and the result of our labours that keep us going. Enjoy it and be proud and when Golfers congratulate, accept humbly for it won't be too long, whether you be a Greenkeeper or the mighty USGA, before their complaints yet again ring in your ears!

Andy Campbell MG CGCS Chairman