Recruitment

BLACKPOOL **NORTH SHORE GOLF CLUB**

Applications are invited for the position of

HEAD GREENKEEPER

To manage the continuing programme and maintenance activities of our undulating clay-based parkland course currently hosting county professional and amateur events.

The successful applicant will be self motivated, enthusiastic and a committed leader able to direct and manage our existing team. This includes weekend working.

Applicants should possess the following:-

- · HNC/HND or appropriate academic vocational qualification or current course of study.
- · Sound understanding of modern and traditional greenkeeping practices
- · A thorough knowledge of turf machinery, and computer controlled irrigation systems and the maintenance thereof
- · Have the ability to prepare and work within an annual budgetary process
- · Must be conversant with Health & Safety regulations and practice

The successful applicant may currently be in a senior position although not necessarily as Head Greenkeeper.

The salary and conditions will reflect the importance the Club place on this appointment.

Applicants are requested to apply in writing or by email enclosing a full CV to B. Roskell, Greens Chairman, Blackpool North Shore Golf Club, Devonshire Road, Blackpool, Lancs. FY2 ORD

Email: office@bnsgc.com Telephone: 01253 352054

Applications received after 20th April may not be considered

WESTERHOPE GOLF CLUB LTD

Invites applications for the position of: COURSE MANAGER

The person appointed to this NEW POSITION will take an active part in greenkeeping work, course maintenance and development, and will possess the following attributes: · Ability to lead and motivate the greenkeeping team

· Appropriately gualified and experienced in course maintenance and equipment • Self motivated and a 'hands on person'

· Ability to manage resources and exercise budgetary control

This will be demanding role and an ideal opportunity for a progressive and proactive individual.

Salary negotiable according to experience and qualifications.

Further details and an application form can be obtained from: The Secretary, Westerhope Golf Club, Whorlton Grange, Westerhope, Newcastle upon Tyne NE5 1PP (email: wgc@btconnect.com)

THE ASHLEY WOOD GOLF CLUB

Requires an

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

We are looking for someone who is highly motivated and able to work as part of a team. You should be qualified to N.V.Q level 2. Spraying certificates would be an advantage.

Apply in writing with C.V. to: Mr J. Shimmons, Golf Manager, The Ashley Wood Golf Club, Wimbourne Road, Blandford Forum, Dorset DT11 9HN Tel: 01258 480379

Closing date: 20th April 2005

You care for turf... we care for turf, but will you earn up to £40k next year? ...and £60k the year after.

There is no doubt the UK market for domestic lawn care has taken off in the last couple of years, and

Interested? Read on... will continue to expand. The American market already exceeds

\$29 billion dollars expenditure and the UK market is set to follow suit. There are a handful of Lawn Care franchises available in our sector, many have no formal training in turf care, or

any course experience. Lawn Master is a company with a Unique difference. The majority of our staff are highly experienced, and we are the only professional lawn treatment company to have come through the ranks with qualified commercial staff with experience.

Lawn Master has set the standards in the last few years for unrivalled quality and adaptable feed programs. Lawn Master has always refused to use the 'one product' franchise method, which some franchises use because they are of terrified of scorching lawns, or know no better. Our customer base runs into thousands, employing our services between our depots, and customers are content in the knowledge that they have real qualified staff dealing with there lawns, rather than an ex-bus driver or redundant bank manager.

The 'Lawn Master franchise masters pack' is the first of it's kind to be offered in the UK. Since it's launch in November 2004 we have opened two new areas run by fully qualified staff, to run along side our other outlets. The earnings potential is around £450 pounds per day per vehicle after business training.



Finance packages are available of up to 66% per cent of the cost of the franchise so you could start with as little as £7000.



Want more information? Then send or call for an info pack to: Lawn Master, Turnpike House, St. Georges Road, St. Geortge, Abergele, Conwy LL22 9BN 0845 60 22 054





Feature listing from April 2003

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

July 2004; Royal Troon Open Preview, Mowing, Disease Analysis

August 2004; Neil Thomas Memorial Golf Day; Open review; Royal Cinque Ports; Irrigation; Mowers (2); Saltex Preview; Best Practice; Top Dressing

September 2004; Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Preview; Ravensworth Golf Club; Turf Disease; Royal Holloway College; Tractors; The Greener Approach to Greenkeeping

October 2004; STRI 75th Anniversary; Kenwick Park GC; Ecology; John Deere National Team Championship; Best Practice; Top Dressing; Saltex Review; Aeration

November 2004; Toro Student Greekeeper of the Year Final; The BIGGA National Championship; Comrie GC; CV Advice; Drainage; Construction; Fences

December 2004; BTME & ClubHouse Preview; Henley GC; Grass Identification; Trees; Environmental Winner; BIGGA Delegation; Interview Advice; College Listings

January 2005; Sir Michael Bonallack; Parkstone GC; Machinery Servicing; Ransomes Jacobsen Scholarship; Recycled Products; John Deere Team Championship; Tees; Negotiation Advice

February 2005; Harrogate 2005 Review; Meet the Chairman; Environmental Competition; Tyres; Coombe Hill GC

March 2005; Alwoodley GC; Difficult Areas; Drainage; Irrigation; Greens

Chairman's Column

The reduction in fungicides - a new dawn or a nail in the coffin for commercially viable golf?



Last month I talked about change and the need to embrace it. Nothing illustrates this need better than the current reduction in available fungicides. As a turf manager, one can bemoan their loss or alternatively, see this as a positive step towards sustainable swards providing economical golf played on traditional, hard wearing, dry firm surfaces based on indigenous grass species.

Having just returned from the South Coast seminar I feel very positively stimulated about the health of our profession when it can produce such high level debate to a full house. The dissertation from Ian Tomlinson about how he had converted Poa greens to fescue/bent greens after the ban on fungicides in Denmark, where he works, was inspiring and he must be congratulated on such an excellent piece of work, which he is willing to share with all.

His recipe for getting back to sustainable greens is creating much interest from the R&A, who have published their first of two articles on this in this magazine. For all Course Managers who have concerns about having Poa dominated greens with future restrictions on fungicides looming, it is well worth the read. His pictures of a Danish golf course with 100% fescue on all areas were extremely thought provoking.

It was also most encouraging to note the enthusiasm of all speakers for the current work being carried out by the R&A on their best practice website, www.bestcourseforgolf.org. The best practice now being advised encourages natural sustainable management practices based on fescue/bent swards. As an Association we very much welcome such initiatives and are happy to support the R&A in any way we can. Members can help by signing their clubs onto the site to join over 1000 clubs who have already done so. To have the leading industry body advocating sustainable environmental management of indigenous swards is of huge assistance to us as greenkeepers. We must congratulate the R&A for this positive initiative and I would recommend all to support it.

It seems to me that in this ever more increasingly commercial world there are two ways our industry can go. The one is based on single minded, autocratic leaders of the various bodies squaring up to each other like Tweedledum and Tweedledee to defend their own self interest. The other is based on leadership styles which are strong enough to allow for inclusion, cooperation and mutual support for the good of all.

This latter style is the more demanding and requires people with the conviction and determination to carry it through but it is surely the way forward. Open criticism of other bodies, whatever their perceived shortcomings, can only cause division, mistrust, suspicion and ultimately a slowing down of any progress for our own Association and the whole industry.

The GTC is a case in point. Five years ago, all interested parties were at loggerheads and it was going nowhere. Now, due to the mutual cooperation of BIGGA, the Home Unions, the R&A and with the help of the STRI we have a vibrant, thriving GTC. Under the respected leadership of David Golding, we now have secured funding, hundreds of trained assessors and have returned basic training back onto the golf course where it belongs.

This has led to training becoming more affordable and more accessible to greenkeepers, something our own Association must strive to do more of. The GTC have even produced standardised learning materials which are solely dedicated to golf greenkeeping, totally related to the NVQ standards they are written to compliment and which extol the virtues of fescue and browntop bent as the grasses best suited for British golf courses. What a refreshing change from the mixed up confusion of previous years.

None of this would have happened without the mutual respect and cooperation between the various bodies. David Golding, Executive Director of the GTC, should be highly congratulated for achieving all of these positive outcomes. No one would claim that all is perfect at the GTC, nor at BIGGA for that matter, but we will only go forward and improve matters if we continue to support all interested parties in any way we can. We fully intend to do so.

As part of our inclusive philosophy, I recently attended the conference of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of Ireland at Limerick. Their hospitality was much appreciated and I am hopeful that we shall cooperate further to the benefit of both Associations. Our own Peter Wisbey gave two very interesting talks and Frank Ainsworth, a canny Scot working in Ireland, showed once again how fescue dominated greens can be achieved by application of the correct agronomic principles.

Frank had no worries about the removal of fungicides. On a parkland situation with lots of trees and with eight year old USGA specification greens, he has no need for them. It does beg the question about the future of our profession.

The restrictions on fungicides can be seen as an infringement of our civil liberties and freedom to choose but, much the same as 'seat belts' and 'alcohol limits', it would appear that sometimes restrictions need to be imposed upon us for the good of the nation and our own long term health.

If we do not want imposed restrictions and regulations then maybe we need to act a little more responsibly. As Robert Zimmerman ironically puts it:

'To live outside of the law you have to be honest' Being honest, especially with oneself, is rarely a bad thing.

Kerran Daly Chairman

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