

# Labour of Love for Golf Lovers

It's a little like finding an old antique in the attic, but in this case this old masterpiece is in need of a little bit more than a little clean and a Sotheby's valuation.



It could also read like a script for an Indiana Jones film, or at least a golf version of an Indiana Jones film.

In a nutshell, Gordon Irvine MG visits his local estate agents in Ayrshire, to organise a fishing trip with the factor (land agent) of a Scottish estate when his profession - greenkeeper - crops up in the conversation. The next thing Gordon is offering to fly to the Outer Hebrides to look at a golf course. When he arrives he realises that he's fallen upon a rare treasure.

Let Gordon take up the story.

"The guy in the estate agent had lived and worked in South Uist, in the Outer Hebrides, and mentioned that his friends looked after a nine hole course on the island and could I perhaps give them some professional advice. I know how hard the job is, doing it full time without doing it voluntarily and I had a few air miles spare so I organised to go up one weekend," explained Gordon, who is currently involved in the revamping of Royal Cinque Ports and Rosslare in Ireland.

"When I got there I found Askernish, a nine hole course in poor condition but the volunteers told me that it had been laid out by Old Tom Morris. Looking at the course I was a little sceptical, as you hear these sorts of claims all the time, but then they showed me a newspaper cutting from The Times in 1898, which raved about the course."

Old Tom used to charge £1 a day plus expenses for design work, and played a part in the design of many famous courses, including Prestwick, Royal Dornoch, Muirfield, Carnoustie, Royal County Down, Nairn and Cruden Bay.

But Askernish must be the most remote of all the courses designed by the great man having apparently been persuaded to lay out the course while on a fishing trip to the island in 1891.

"I was told that some of the course had been turned over to the RAF to make a runway in the 1930s and that the original course had been on the links land nearby. We walked over and sure enough you could see this amazing links land and, because it was winter, you could just make out some of the original holes. It was absolutely incredible."

There and then Gordon offered that, rather than help them with their current nine holes, they work to restore the original course and that he would work on the project unpaid and bring in whatever help was required.

As he was working closely with Architect, Martin Ebert, at Cinque Ports, he sold the idea to him with a view to Martin providing half a day's consultancy but he persuaded him with such gusto that Martin became as excited about the project as Gordon himself to the extent that he, like everyone else involved, has gone way over any initial commitment made.

In the report Martin wrote on the course he states: "It is not an exaggeration to say that the duneland to the south of the existing course is the perfect terrain over which to route holes and it is hard to imagine that there has ever been better raw material for the laying out of a course anywhere in the world."

High praise indeed!

"When we went back in February the local volunteers had spoken with some of the older islanders who could recall watching golf being played and with their help we were able to identify some of the holes. As the course was paid for by Lady Cathcart we concluded that the course would have started and finished close to her house. We eventually became confident that we'd located 12 of the original holes and set about laying out the other six.

Gordon has roped in fellow greenkeepers including Alex McCombie, of Parkstone GC, Chris Haspell and a group of greenkeepers from Denmark, to give up time to work on restoring the course as close to its original condition as possible. Adam Lawrence, Editor of The Golf Course Architect magazine and Malcolm Peake, of Temple Golf Club, have also given support and shown great interest in the project.

As part of the promotion of the course, Malcolm Peake has organised for Terry Wogan to make mention of the project on his Radio 2 show, while a package to visit and play the course has been offered as a lot, in the Children in Need Auction. Life Memberships are also available.

"Alistair Beggs is another who has lent his support and he was instrumental in talking with the local crofters who were concerned about the grazing rights they currently enjoy on the land. Alistair was able to tell them that having sheep grazing the golf course was perfectly compatible with a working golf course," explained Gordon.

"We want to use traditional methods wherever possible, the only exception being the greens which will be maintained using more modern methods as we want and need quality putting surfaces. They are small and we will make them bigger unless it were to mean losing the original feel of the green.

"Martin wants to incorporate Royal County Down style bunkering with the marram grass faces and I haven't been involved in the construction of such bunkers so it will be interesting.

"It's a real step back in time. There will be no irrigation so we'll be looking at moisture retention techniques and ensuring that we don't disturb the growing medium once work has been carried out. What we do must be sustainable," said Gordon, who is also training the island volunteers, who are heavily involved in the project, in greenkeeping, as they will be maintaining the course in the long term. Colin MacGregor is the man who has been responsible for maintaining the existing course virtually single handed and he will carry on his good work once everything has been completed.

No drainage will be required as the course is so free draining, while tees will be turfed with local turf taken from the fairways of the existing course. Fairways will be mown down from existing grasses with imperfections of levels harrowed and rolled out. The existing soil at the greens is the perfect medium - natural sand enriched with organic matter in the first 150 to 200 mm.

The principle maintenance operations for greens will be top dressing with sand and aeration.

"Realistically I'll be spending a couple of days a month and perhaps the odd week up there and I'm grateful for the great support we have received for some many quarters," he said, adding that Rupert Price of Ransomes Jacobsen and IMG have offered their help.

Speaking with Gordon you can't help but pick up on the excitement and enthusiasm he has for a project which has captivated everyone who has become involved.

"The pace of the project will very much be determined by the amount of support we get and I'd like to thank everyone who has helped so far."

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# The Appliance of Science

**David Robinson, outlines the latest developments in top dressings and highlights the important role its dressings are playing in the preparation of Hoylake, for the forthcoming British Open.**

**In the search for ever-improved quality of greens, the production and application of high quality, consistent top dressings has become increasingly important and scientific.**

The status and reputation of a golf course is all too often judged on the quality of its greens, which is why treatments and materials which can improve a playing surface, have been a key part of every greenkeeper's armoury since golf began.

Until as recently as 30 years ago, most greenkeepers were still producing their own top dressings on site for fine turf areas, such as greens and tees. Using a mix of local sands, soils and grass clippings they produced a composted soil product which was then screened using a traditional hand-riddle method. Made largely from the same materials as rootzone they ensured a consistent green construction.

As commercial production of top dressings developed, the need for golf clubs to maintain their own on site production diminished and today every golf club will source top dressings from a specialist supplier.

As to which top dressing, and indeed which supplier to use, this really can depend on the location and aspect of the golf course and the specific construction type of your greens. But it is perhaps best to firstly recap why top dressings are used and why they are such a key ingredient when it comes to producing successful putting greens.

Essentially, the role of top dressings is to assist the greenkeeper in producing a true and level, top quality playing surface. Top dressing helps to break down a green's thatched layer, it smoothes out surface irregularities and improves the utilisation of natural and man-made irrigation sources. Used as part of a verti-draining process, top dressing aerates the underlying root level and improves drought tolerance.

## HIGH PERFORMANCE

Given that top dressing has so many performance criteria to fulfil, more careful consideration is needed as to what actually constitutes a top dressing. Essentially the key ingredients are sand (the bulk constituent), silt and clay and a small percentage of organic matter which may be soil, peat or green compost. The industry talks in terms of ratios, for example 80/20 or 70/30 which is essentially the percentage blend of a top dressing - i.e. 70% or 80% sand by volume. But that, of course, is only half the story because the most important detail is the type and grade of sand.

It goes without saying that not all sands are the same and that there are significant variations in particle size or pH balance.

Sand is processed according to particle size, colour or chemical composition, and can be supplied in a moist or dried state. At Bathgate, for example, our high purity silica sand is washed, screened to size, heat-treated, and blended and graded to a fine uniform consistency. On-site laboratory facilities utilise the latest computer based testing and all aspects of the business operate under the auspices of BS EN ISO 9001: 2000 Standard for Quality Management Systems.

## COMPATIBILITY

From a greenkeeper's perspective, all that really matters is finding a top dressing that is compatible with their own course's greens profile and it is here that the importance of a reputable specialist supplier is invaluable. Laboratory-controlled sampling and testing of existing top dressing is essential, with pH, silt/clay and particle size distribution analysis all necessary. Taking soil profiles from a number of different greens is an additional service that most reputable specialists will offer.

## The Appliance of Science



The particle size distribution of a top dressing should be compatible with that of a green's profile in order to maintain or enhance the drainage characteristics. A hydraulic conductivity test will determine whether particle size distribution is acceptable for effective drainage. Coarse over fine, for example, may result in a green surface that is deficient in nutrients and has a low water retention, whereas fine over coarse may result in a surface which retains water with very little air-filled porosity.

The pH of top dressings is also important, with neutral (7) or very slightly acidic dressings, the optimal specification. A growing practice amongst some top dressing suppliers is the use of recycled composted green waste as one of the organic constituents. However, there remain some question marks over the effect this might have on consistent product quality, the argument being that no two batches of recycled waste can ever be the same and therefore the pH level of the dressings are bound to have variations.

Nor has the top dressings market been unaffected by the current 'hot topic' of climate change. Certainly in this country, the blurring of seasons and greater year-round rainfall consistency has had an impact on green upkeep, with a marked move towards slightly more coarser dressings being used.

Another major development in the top dressings market has been in application equipment. The traditional 'belt and brush' method of application was, for too many greenkeepers, seen as labour intensive, time-consuming and disruptive. New spinning plate 'spray apply' equipment can help deliver a more even spread of top dressing and in much quicker time.

Where once it might have taken a full day to apply top dressings to all 18 greens, it may now be done in just a couple of hours. Where once greenkeepers would only consider top dressing twice a year in spring and autumn, now the adage is 'little and often', with the new technology making light and frequent top dressing a cornerstone practice for more and more greenkeepers all through the growing season.

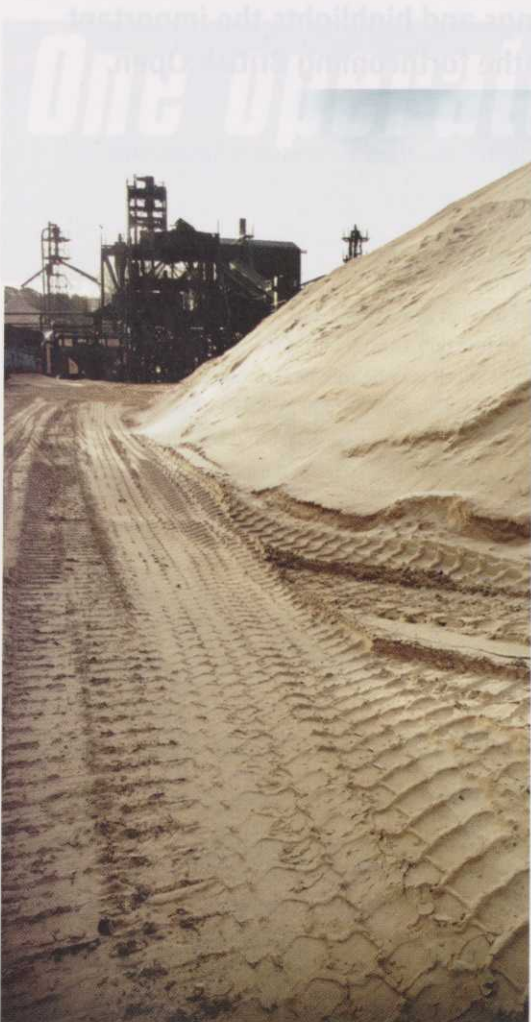
### THE OPEN

All of which brings us to the Royal Liverpool Golf Club at Hoylake, scene of this year's Open Championship. The day to day challenges faced by greenkeepers at golf clubs the length and breadth of the country are magnified a hundred-fold when you have the eyes of the golfing world on you for four days in late July.

Bathgate has been supplying top dressings to Hoylake for several years, though never has the course been under such close public and professional scrutiny, with this its first Open for almost 40 years. Which perhaps explains why top dressing is not only being applied throughout the tee and green areas, but also extensively on the fairways, to help produce an immaculate playing surface befitting this prestigious tournament.

The scale and the profile of the application may be very different to our day to day business supplying golf clubs up and down the country, but the objective remains exactly the same: to work with the green keeping staff to ensure that when people come to judge the golf club, they speak in only the highest terms about the quality of the course.

*David Robinson is General Manager of Bathgate Silica Sands. For further information call: 01270 762828 or visit: [www.bathgatesilica.co.uk](http://www.bathgatesilica.co.uk)*



Royal Liverpool Golf Club, Hoylake - the scene of this year's Open Championship



# Making Golf Courses More User Friendly

## *A Golf Course Architect's Perspective*

Jonathan Tucker provides some invaluable advice on getting a course into proportion for your membership.

Arguments over many years, have raged, concerning the threat of advances in equipment technology to the challenge offered by our golf courses, notably at the Championship end of the spectrum. Are these portents of apocalypse justified? Undoubtedly the advent of drivers with heads the size of footballs and sweet spots to match, allied to golf balls with higher launch angles have served to democratise length. But this process has not been without its trade-offs - increased distance does not equate with more accuracy and indeed usually the converse applies! As Lee Trevino once said: "It's not the bow or the arrow, but the Indian".

One of the main problems is that we can lose sight of the principal end user of our golf courses. It is a fact that we have an ageing golfer population and, whereas golf equipment is helping to maintain the balance, the overall spread of handicaps has not significantly shifted with the average equating to around 18 at the majority of clubs. Golf perhaps more than any other sport exposes the gulf between the novice and the low handicap player and in particular, the professional. This latter breed has evolved almost along Darwinian lines as improvements in fitness levels, strength and conditioning have arguably had as much influence as equipment technology.

If we are to encourage new golfers into the game, which is essential to its long-term survival and ensure that golf is seen as a pastime and not a penance, we must reconcile these differences and make golf attractive regardless of ability.

There are perhaps two main strands to this discussion:

1. The layout of the golf course and associated golf elements.
2. Agronomic issues and course conditions.

Let us first consider the issue of course length. The majority of well-established courses have progressively evolved in an attempt to keep pace with advances in golf equipment and one of the main devices has been the creation of tees placed further and further back - until boundary or internal safety constraints come into force. However, to cater for the wider spread of abilities multiple tees, staggered over a wide area, are the answers.

Given that generally ladies hit the ball only 75% of the distance of the men and lower handicap ladies 85%, courses for ladies should be around 4,800 to 5,200 yards in order to equate with the average men's course of 6,400 to 6,900 yards. This is well short of the general average of a ladies' course of around 5,600 to 5,700 yards. The general system involving a back white medal tee (perhaps a blue championship tee), yellow tee for general play and red for ladies could therefore be expanded to incorporate a forward ladies' tee in addition to the existing ladies' tee. This two-tee system for women would, as a consequence, have holes which would equate to the broad guidelines as in the table



Multiple tees for varying ability

### LADIES' BACK TEE

par 3 120-200 yards

par 4 300-380 yards

par 5 420-540 yards

### LADIES' FORWARD TEE

par 3 60-150 yards

par 4 240-340 yards

par 5 401-420 yards

The existing back ladies' tee could be made gender neutral so that low handicap ladies, juniors and some senior players can play a more manageable length of course. But I am sure that there will be a certain element within golf clubs that find the suggestion of providing an even shorter course anathema, but it is all a question of flexibility and providing a realistic challenge for all.

Positioning of tees is also inextricably associated with linkage between holes. In the writer's opinion, golf is best enjoyed carrying a bag of clubs. However, long arduous walks between green and tee are undesirable with



Water features can be extremely attractive but should be employed appropriately



Original green at Sitwell Park-Alister Mackenzie

preferably a maximum distance of 60-80 metres between the green and next tee. If longer walks are enforced, try and break up these with attractive landscaping or alternatively open up vistas where these can be had to provide a visual distraction.

Positioning, type and profusion of hazards on a golf course is another contentious topic, which needs to be considered further. The appearance of water features on many of our new courses provides an immediate visual impact and can add considerably to the challenge and sense of achievement once negotiated. But, overuse of water features or inappropriate positioning can simply lead to frustration! Generally, enforced carries should not exceed 75 yards for the weak player. Alternatively, water hazards could be circumvented by providing different routes of play, i.e. strategic rather than penal design or "risk v. reward".

In an attempt to toughen up holes, sand bunkers are often overused. Indiscriminate placement around greens can lead to a form of target golf, which favours iron play and the high rates of spin imparted by the low handicap and scratch player, in order to hold the green. A very well defended short par 3 or short par 4 hole has its place but greenside bunkering should also serve to accentuate the strategy of a hole and define zones of difficulty within the putting surface for pin placement.

Hazards placed prominently in the middle of fairways, for example, bunkers or even feature trees, can also be extremely effective and not just punitive, provided that there are still alternative routes or strategies to overcome the hazard.

Fairway bunkering on many of our old courses has failed to keep pace with advances in equipment and therefore punishes those "who carry their own bunkers with them". Removal and repositioning can redress the balance but this should be done under professional guidance. Bunkers serve several purposes on the golf course including:

- As a hazard affecting the strategy of play.
- For aesthetic or landscaping purposes.
- As directional indicators.
- For retention (i.e. to reduce conflict with adjoining playing areas).
- For safety, e.g. to direct golfers away from vulnerable boundaries.

All the above should be considered in the process of bunker rationalisation.

The role of grass hollows or grass bunkers, should not be underestimated as they can provide considerable playing interest and, compared with a sand bunker, are generally easier to negotiate for the high handicap player. Provided the low spots are well drained and the

smoothness of the contouring is conducive to efficient maintenance, grass hollows are very effective both as part of the green complex and "through the green".

And finally, we come to the influence of modern maintenance techniques and their impact on design. Many of the diverse courses constructed during the "Golden Age" of architecture during the 1920s and 1930s were typified by steeply sloped and tilted greens with gradients, which could be 5-7%. This was acceptable under the management regimes operating at the time but fast-forward to the present with Stimpmeter readings of 11-12 foot on the new bentgrass, cultivars cut at 6/64 inch and putting becomes a virtual impossibility.

Modern greens are constructed with more moderate slopes with a rule of thumb that overall gradients should not exceed 3% for traditional bentgrass/fescue greens (or relaid bentgrass/annual meadow-grass greens) and perhaps 2% for the tightly shaved creeping bentgrass varieties. When it comes to restoration of our classic courses there can be a conflict. This can be resolved by either managing the expectations of the golfers and manipulating greens speeds, so that a degree of control can be exerted or by maintaining the character and essence of the green but moderating the contours. This is a subject for separate debate! Suffice to say, our golf courses are living entities which evolve over time and many of the original contours with greens have either been softened or indeed accentuated over the years by top dressing, green settlement, etc.

Fairway conditioning has also improved immeasurably with the armoury of modern equipment and in particular mowing machinery, now available to the greenkeeper. Lower mowing heights produce more ball roll, but equally, high handicap golfers find it more difficult to sweep the ball off the turf. By contrast, the professional likes a minimum amount of grass between club head and ball for control. Therefore, the main issue is one of balance and sustainability.

Fairway shaping can also have a profound influence on the playability of a hole for golfers of differing ability. For example, a wide landing area of 40-50 yards for the high handicap player can taper to a much narrower section of 20-25 yards in the range of the lower handicap player - thereby placing a premium on accuracy as well as length.

In summary, it is true that occasionally we need to massage the ego of the golfer and provide a fitting challenge on our golf courses. However, a tough golf course is not necessarily a good golf course. An element of fear is no bad thing but the challenge must be commensurate with levels of skill. Therefore, flexibility in golf provision is the key to success.

*Jonathan Tucker is a Golf Course Architect for the STRI*



# Life-long Learning in the Workplace

BIGGA and the Greenkeepers Training Committee are fully committed to vocational qualifications for greenkeepers. Key parts of these qualification is the learning of Knowledge and Skills plus the assessment of those skills in the work-place.

Plan-It Training and Consultancy has worked for more than ten years, in collaboration with the GTC, to introduce successful life long learning for golf greenkeepers.

The provision of work place assessors and work place trainers has been Plan-It's core activity but they are now developing a range of management and professional development courses within the golf industry These courses will give greenkeepers the opportunity to gain professional management qualifications such as the Diploma in Management Studies and the Certificate in Management Studies.

Other industries, throughout the UK, have benefited from working with Plan-It with many of the projects being supported by the European Social Fund.

Although currently working with over 450 greenkeepers in England, to develop their at work assessor and trainer skills, Plan It are actively spreading the good news on work-based learning and assessment to the United States.

Moreover, with the success in 2006 Plan-It, the GTC and BIGGA are working together to create even more opportunities for life long learning by holding Workshops during Harrogate Week 2007.

Further information about all the courses and programmes operated by Plan-It Training can be obtained by calling the Plan-It HQ on 01606 558666 or 01270 528 338. Alternatively contact Plan-It by emailing them at [training@plan-it.net](mailto:training@plan-it.net).



*"what we think, we become" ...Buddha*

**At Plan-It Training, we recognise that every organisation is a collection of individuals who have come together to pursue a common objective. The success of our organisation will depend upon the success of the individuals within it, and as such, we are dedicated to the effective identification and delivery of your training needs, and hope to contribute to the success of your organisation.**

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*"desire is the starting point of all achievement" ...Napoleon Hill*

**For more information contact Iain on:**

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**Tel: 01606 558 666 or 01270 528 338 (after 10th Jan 06)**

# GREENKEEPER TRAINING



BIGGA is actively involved in raising the Standard of Greenkeeper Training. The Association is a member of the Greenkeepers' Training Committee and strives to enhance the level of education through various means, including Section, Regional and National workshops, seminars and conferences.

The range and quality of training now available throughout the UK means that there is a training course for every greenkeeper. This should improve the quality of greenkeeping and help to produce better quality golf courses to the benefit of all within the industry.

Golf Course Managers should ensure that their staff are trained to the highest standards. This begins 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 all clubs should invest in the education of their staff.

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)

## SCOTLAND



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**GOSTA TRAINING LTD** 50 Brook Street, Glasgow, G40 2AB **Contact:** Chris Bothwell **Tel:** 0141 556 3999 **Fax:** 0141 556 4999  
**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 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.



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**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 Pesticides.

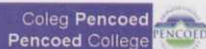


**OATRIDGE COLLEGE** Ecclesmachan, By Broxburn, West Lothian, EH52 6NH **Contact:** Steve Miller **Tel:** 01506 864800 **Fax:** 01506 853373  
**Email:** [info@oatridge.ac.uk](mailto:info@oatridge.ac.uk) **Web:** [www.oatridge.ac.uk](http://www.oatridge.ac.uk) **Information:** Full-time National Certificate 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.



**SOUTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL GREENKEEPING COURSE** Chief Executive's Department, Training & Development Centre, 15 Links Road, South Ayrshire  
**Contact:** Gordon McGinn **Tel:** 01292 678861 **Fax:** 01292 671790 **Email:** [gordon.mcgin@southayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:gordon.mcgin@southayrshire.gov.uk) **Information:** SVQ Level 2 Amenity Horticulture: Sportsturf, SVQ Level 3 Amenity Horticulture: Sportsturf and the Modern Apprenticeship in Amenity Horticulture

## WALES



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# 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>



**ASKHAM BRYAN COLLEGE** Askham Bryan, York, North Yorkshire, YO23 3FR **Contact:** Central Admissions Tel: 01904 772211 **Email:** [enquires@askham-bryan.ac.uk](mailto:enquires@askham-bryan.ac.uk) **Web:** [www.askham-bryan.ac.uk](http://www.askham-bryan.ac.uk) **Information:** First Diploma in Horticulture, Higher National Certificate in Horticulture (Golf Course Management): Part-Time Study, Foundation Degree Horticulture or Landscape and Garden Management, Foundation Degree Horticulture, all available full or part-time. Block release courses: NVQ Level 3 Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Maintenance, NVQ Level 4 Amenity Horticulture. Short courses: FEPA spraying, chainsaw and brushcutter courses.



**BERKSHIRE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE** Hall Place, Burchetts Green, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 6QR **Contact:** Deborah Smirfitt Tel: Freephone 0800 0711 666 **Fax:** 01628 824695 **Email:** [enquiries@bca.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@bca.ac.uk) **Web:** [www.bca.ac.uk](http://www.bca.ac.uk) **Information:** 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 Apprenticeships, Higher National Diploma/Certificate programmes. Part-time programmes include NVQ Level 2 and 3 Amenity Horticulture, Sports Turf. Residential accommodation is available and free parking on site.



**BRIDGWATER COLLEGE CANNINGTON CENTRE FOR LAND-BASED STUDIES**, Cannington, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA5 2LS **Contact:** Course Enquires Tel: 01278 441234 **Fax:** 01278 444363 **Email:** [enquiries@bridgwater.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@bridgwater.ac.uk) **Web:** [www.bridgwater.ac.uk](http://www.bridgwater.ac.uk) **Information:** National Certificate in Horticulture (Sportsturf), Advanced National Certificate in Horticulture (Sports Turf), Certificate of Higher Education in Golf Course Management, Foundation Degree in Golf Course Management, NVQ Level 2 Sports Turf, NVQ Level 3 Sports Turf, FEPA Training, Chainsaw Certification, Greenkeeper Mechanics. Note: The Certificate of Higher Education and the Foundation Degree are available as part-time options.



**EAST DURHAM AND HOUGHALL COMMUNITY COLLEGE** Houghall, Durham, DH1 3SG **Contact:** Ian Lacy Tel: 0191 375 4754 / 0191 375 4740 **Fax:** 0191 386 0419 **Email:** [enquiry@edhcc.ac.uk](mailto:enquiry@edhcc.ac.uk) **Web:** [www.edhcc.ac.uk](http://www.edhcc.ac.uk) **Information:** Full-time courses: National Certificate in Horticulture/Greenkeeping and Groundsmanship - 1 year; National Diploma in Horticulture Turf Option - 2/3 years. Part time courses: Greenkeeping and Sportsturf maintenance NVQ Level 2 - Day Release. NVQ Level 3/4 Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Maintenance Day Release. Short courses: NPTC Modules, Chainsaw certification, Tree inspection, Horticultural Machinery, Safe Lifting and First Aid.



**MERRIST WOOD CAMPUS OF GUILDFORD COLLEGE** Worplesdon, Guildford, Surrey, GU3 3PE **Contact:** Joe Paulin Tel: 01483 884088 **Fax:** 01483 884001 **Email:** [jpaulin@guildford.ac.uk](mailto:jpaulin@guildford.ac.uk) **Web:** [www.guildford.ac.uk](http://www.guildford.ac.uk) **Information:** Part time courses: NVQ Level 2 Sportsturf college day release and work place visits/assessments at Merrist Wood, Crawley and the London Golf Club in Kent, Level 2 First Diploma college day release for those without qualified workplace assessors, NVQ Level 3 Sportsturf on-line, Level 3 National Award college day release for those without qualified workplace assessors, HNC Turfgrass Science and Management college day release over 2 years, HND day release 1 extra year plus a Top-up BSc Degree for HND graduates part-time over 2 years, plus various short courses including BTLIA Irrigation Certificate Course, throughout the year. Please contact us for up to date listings, qualifications and advice. Open evenings are held regularly at the campus.



**MYERSCOUGH COLLEGE** Bilsborrow, Preston, Lancashire, PR3 0RY **Contact:** Wayne Roberts Tel: 01995 642222/642305 **Fax:** 01995 642333 **Email:** [mailbox@myerscough.ac.uk](mailto:mailbox@myerscough.ac.uk) **Web:** [www.myerscough.ac.uk](http://www.myerscough.ac.uk) **Information:** Full time courses: BSc (Hon's) Turfgrass Science, Foundation Degree Sportsturf Science - online option by distance learning, ND Turf Science & Sportsground Maintenance: National Certificate in Groundsmanship and Greenkeeping, also Sports Turf Mechanisation option: First Diploma in Greenkeeping; Turf Science: NVQ 2, 3 & 4 Greenkeeping Management delivered both in the work place and over the internet using the colleges 'Mollinet System'. Part-time courses NVQ Level 2 & 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.: FdSc / BSc Turf Science: FEPA Short courses. NPTC Certificates of competence in the safe use of mowers and turfcare equipment. Careers mornings monthly on Saturdays.



**OAKLANDS COLLEGE** St Albans Smallford Campus, Hatfield Road, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL4 0JA **Contact:** Andrew Wight Tel: 01727 737080 **Email:** [andy.wight@oaklands.ac.uk](mailto:andy.wight@oaklands.ac.uk) **Web:** [www.oaklands.ac.uk](http://www.oaklands.ac.uk) **Information:** Full time courses: National Certificate in Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Management. HNC in Sportsturf. Part-time courses: leading to NVQ Level 2 & 3 Greenkeeping, Apprenticeship Training. Foundation degree starting in September '06. Short Courses: Pesticide, Chainsaw.



**PLUMPTON COLLEGE** Ditchling Road, Plumpton, Lewes, East Sussex BN7 3AE **Contact:** David Blackmur Tel: 01273 890454 **Fax:** 01273 890071 **Email:** [enquiries@plumpton.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@plumpton.ac.uk) **Web:** [www.plumpton.ac.uk](http://www.plumpton.ac.uk) **Information:** Foundation Degree in Horticulture (Sportsturf specialism) with effect from Sept 2006 start (subject to approval). National Diploma in Amenity Horticulture, National Award (Garden Design), First Diploma in Horticulture. Part time courses: NVQ Level 1; NVQ Level 2 in Landscaping and Sportsturf; NVQ Level 3 Landscaping and Sportsturf; NVQ Level 4. Also available are RHS Certificate and RHS Advanced; IOG National Technical and Intermediate National Diploma. Short courses are also available for FEPA spraying and chainsaw.



**RODBASTON COLLEGE** Rodbaston College, Rodbaston, Penkridge, Stafford ST19 5PH **Contact:** John Renshaw Tel: 01785 712209 **Fax:** 01785 715701 **Email:** [john.renshaw@rodbaston.ac.uk](mailto:john.renshaw@rodbaston.ac.uk) **Information:** NVQ Amenity Horticulture (Sportsturf) at Levels 1- 4. Part-time and flexible study options. Short Courses: Pesticides, Chainsaws and safe use of equipment.



**WARWICKSHIRE COLLEGE** Moreton Morrell Centre, Moreton Morrell, Warwick, Warwickshire, CV35 9BL **Contact:** Andrew Turnbull Tel: 01926 318285 **Fax:** 01926 318300 **Email:** [aturnbull@warwcol.ac.uk](mailto:aturnbull@warwcol.ac.uk) **Web:** [www.warwcol.ac.uk](http://www.warwcol.ac.uk) **Information:** Greenkeeping Courses: Foundation Degree Sports Turf Management (3 year part-time with the option of an HNC after two years, some distance learning units) NVQ Level 2 & 3 Day Release and Workbased Option. City and Guilds Advanced National certificate Sports Turf - A level 3 qualification, 2 year day release. BTECH First Diploma Sports Turf. Short Courses: Spraying Certificates (PA1, PA2, PA6), Chainsaw Certificate; NPTC certificates; Tractor Driving, Mowing Equipment, Turf Maintenance Equipment. All training and assessment carried out in the workplace.



**WRITTLE COLLEGE** Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 3RR **Contact:** Registry Tel: 01245 424200 **Fax:** 01245 420456 **Email:** [info@writtle.ac.uk](mailto:info@writtle.ac.uk) **Web:** [www.writtle.ac.uk](http://www.writtle.ac.uk) **Information:** SPORTS TURF PROGRAMMES: Foundation Degree - Sports Turf and Golf Course Management, Honours Degree - Sports Turf Science & Management, NVQ Level 2 & 3 - Sports Turf. OTHER PROGRAMMES: BSc (Hons) & FdSc Horticulture, BSc (Hons) & FdSc Landscape & Amenity Management, BSc (Hons) Horticulture with Business Management, BSc (Hons) International Horticulture, BSc (Hons) & FdSc Horticultural Crop Production, FdSc Landscape Construction, MSc/MA International Horticulture, MSc Horticulture (Crop Production), MSc Postharvest Technology, MSc Landscape Management, First Diploma, National Certificate, National Diploma - Horticulture, NVQ Level 2 & 3 Landscaping, NVQ Level 2 & 3 Service Engineering (Agricultural & Groundcare Machinery), C&G Service Engineering Progression Award. SHORT COURSES: NPTC Chainsaw, Health & Safety plus many more.

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