

from Ian Wood on: 01708 746157 or: 07952470861 or email ian.wood@romfordgolfclub.co.uk, come along and enjoy the fun, There is a bar open all afternoon and evening.

Robert Bell has moved from Five Lakes after four and a half years, to take over the running of San Roque Club, Spain, a 36-hole complex as Course Superintendent, it's not that far from Gibraltar, so the warmer climate should suit him and his family. I wish them all well, I'm sure he will not miss the cold north sea weather he's got used to of late. His First Assistant, James Ramey, has moved five or so miles west, after 23 years at Five Lakes (Quietwaters), to Braxted Park as Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper, we hope he will be happy there and hopefully join us at a few of our golf days and seminars.

Our Southern STRI Region Agronomist, Stella Rixon, has just given birth to a little girl whom she has named Niamh (an Irish name pronounced 'Neve') she was born on March 8 "in a hurry - only four hours of labour - lucky me!" Said Stella. Weighing in at 6lbs 7oz.. Well done Stella.

Anyone who has any news for inclusion in ATG can email me at: highwoods.photographic@virgin.net or call me on: 01206 852353  
Arnold Phipps-Jones

**South West**

Some good news to start. Tim Needham, Deputy Course Manager at Chipping Sodbury (and an ex-assistant of mine), has just become a father. Daughter, Isabella, arrived safely at 7lb 4oz and Tim, having done all the hard work, is now taking time out to recover at home. Richard Louisson, Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Cirencester got married recently. His Best-Man, Graeme Percival, himself an ex-greenkeeper, secretly distributed door keys to various male guests arriving at the reception. While making his speech, he touched on the fact that the new Mrs Louisson was now a married woman, and anyone still with a front door key to her flat had better give it back immediately. To Richard's amazement and horror, several dozen people promptly stood up. What are friends for after all? Rob, our youngest, and I were down at Cannington College the other day. We had the great pleasure of meeting with Steve Hasell and Jon MacDonald who run the golf studies. We had a very good look at the facilities, as Rob is interested in the Foundation Degree. The golf side of things has come a very long way recently. The golf course is very well equipped, enthusiastically managed by Hugh Murray, and looked in extremely good condition for the time of year. Steve Hasell wrote the following especially for inclusion in the magazine.

Bridgwater College, from October 2007, is running, at our Cannington Centre in conjunction with BIGGA South West, the NVQ level 3 in Sport Turf and Greenkeeping. This new format allows flexibility for trainees to attend college only one day per month with additional support from our work-based assessors to get the trainees through their portfolios. The course is run over two years starting this October and will run until March 2008 when you can then get back to concentrating on your golf course work. The second year will start in October 2008 and you should complete by March 2009 with your

Level 3. Contact the college for more information on: 01278 655083 or: macdonaldjo@bridgwater.ac.uk. This course is free to those under 25 who do not possess their Level 3 and is only £350 per year for those over 25.

The college has received unprecedented investment into new greenkeeping machinery in the last two years, and also the appointment of a New Section Leader for the Horticulture and Sports Turf Department, Jonathan MacDonald, who worked at Reaseheath as well as Moulton College. A new Programme Manager for Sports Turf provision and a new Manager of Golf have been appointed to strengthen delivery of the courses which range from NVQ to Foundation degrees and to help provide a first class driving range, academy and 9 hole 18 tee golf course. Apprenticeships in Level 2 Sports Turf and Greenkeeping remain popular and are free to 16-18 year olds and our Foundation Degree in Golf Course management, which is run two days a week for two years full time (part time routes available.)

Marc Haring has a number of training courses and information days in the offing – please ring or mail Marc at march@cumberwellpark.co.uk for more details. Nobby Knight sends a final appeal to respond if you want to be on the mailing list, and to receive details of the Section Events. We are not in a position to be able to send out 290 entry forms for every event, so by not responding, you run the risk of not being informed. You can email Nobby on: nobbyknight384@hotmail.com Anyone wishing to play the team events contact Wayne Vincent: 07958630590.

Back at Minch, Abbots have finished the irrigation installation to everyone's great relief. Despite the weather a fantastic job has been done (providing it works okay) and you can hardly see where they've been. I do not intend to repeat this experience again – ever.

My recent PowerPoint talk to Box Gardening Club went down a storm. Things got off to a slightly rocky start when I arrived at Box Village Hall about half an hour early. When I pulled up outside, all the lights were ablaze, and the car park jammed to overflowing. Blimey I thought, I'm late - all these people have turned out on a freezing cold night to listen, and I'm late. So I grab all my kit, computer, projector, and screen, and go puffing off inside. When I open the front door, the main hall is totally deserted. It looks a bit like the Marie Celeste – not a stick of furniture, not a single person in sight, almost a ball of tumbleweed blowing gently about in the corner. So I tiptoe towards the second, smaller room. As I approach the door, a woman in an overall type uniform pokes her head out. "Thank God for that - the cleaners", so as she looks a bit slow, I talk loudly and clearly. "I'm with Box Gardening Club", I bellowed across the hall – and with that I notice shadowy shapes of people lying on mats on the floor behind her. She's running the local Pilates class and they're all meditating in some sort of trance, or at least they were until I went blundering in.

Paul Worster

**South Coast**

The South Coast Section Seminar 2007, was held at Canford Magna GC on Wednesday, March 14. Over 100 people attended what was a very successful day. It was also good to welcome some IOG members to the day. Chris Bitten, our Secretary, put together an excellent programme.

The AM session focused on the very important topic of water and irrigation.

Marcus White kicked off the day with a very in depth talk regarding winter water storage. This included much detail of reservoir planning and construction. His knowledge of the subject really shone through. Much of the planning process with such a project must go via the Environment Agency (EA), so it was apt to have Jim Whatley from the EA talk to us regarding this subject. Jim found it very useful to get out of the office and gain feedback from people within our industry. Before lunch Andy Cole, of Professional Sportsturf Design (PSD), communicated a superb talk regarding soil water. Andy used to be a lecturer in turf culture at Warwickshire College and it showed. His talk was thoroughly informative.

After a super lunch, it was a pleasure to welcome two well respected Head Groundsmen, Peter Craig and Eddie Seaward. Peter is from the Hurlingham Club which features croquet, lawn tennis, cricket and bowls plus gardens. Peter took us through the maintenance year at the Hurlingham Club – never a dull moment – a very busy man. Eddie, from the All England Lawn Tennis Club, gave us a fascinating insight into the year at the famous tennis club. We were blessed to have such a respected personality at our seminar – he is a true professional.

The committee and Section would like to offer our thanks to all the presenters helping to make the day a major success. We also thank Canford Magna GC once again making us welcome and looking after us, in particular Alain Sainval (Clubhouse Manager) and his staff. Also much gratitude to our sponsors for the day, Tower Chemicals, Banks Amenity and Vitax. Well done Chris Bitten with the organising of your first seminar.

To keep the seminar a success we need to know what you want, for example, topics, certain speakers etc. Chris Bitten will contact you with a questionnaire requesting such information. Please respond so that we know what to aim for in the future.

The final of the Jim Fry pairs was between Tony Gadd and Fred Deamen vs Steve Privett and Simon Justice, at Remedy Oak GC, on Wednesday, April 4. And, the winners...team Alresford. Congratulations to Steve & Simon (Steve have you worked out how to get your name into next month's magazine?) Thank you to Robert Hogarth and team for the great condition of the course. The Scotts/BIGGA Management Trophy will take place at Stoneham GC on May 31. Each golf club that enters a team must make up a four ball which must include a member of their greenkeeping staff, the other three must be members of the Clubs Management e.g. Secretary, Chairman, Chairman of Green, President etc. This is reasonably flexible as long as a greenkeeper is part of the team. The cost per team is £90. The prizes include individual rewards plus £200 of Scotts products for the winning Golf Club. To book please contact Jane Jones on: 07841 948001.

That's it for this month – speak to you again soon.

Joe Crawley Tel: 07721 389200

### Devon and Cornwall

On March 7, the Section held its first workshop of the season at Trenthorne GC in Cornwall and consisted of three topics on the following subjects: Drainage and Construction – Land Drainage Contractors Association (LDCA); Health and Safety; Environmental Issues.

The Section had an excellent turn out and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the speakers that participated i.e. Nigel Wyatt, Director of M J Abbot; Bruce Brockway, from LDCA, and Jon Allbut.

A huge thank you also goes to Trenthorne GC and in particular, Jon Granger, the proprietor, for making us so welcome, and Justin Austin, Course Manager, for all his hard work in making the day so successful. On March 14, we had the last of our season's meetings, and what a day it turned out

to be, brilliant weather, just like the middle of summer, the Church course was in superb condition and the lunch was outstanding.

Two competitions were run on the day, The Vitax Trophy for Head Greenkeepers and the Bayer Cup for the First Assistants. The winners were as follows: Vitax Competition – 1. Steve Evans, Yelverton Golf Course, 43pts; 2. Andrew Dunston, Newquay GC, 34pts; 3. Paul Newcombe, East Devon GC, 32pts. Bayer Cup – 1. S Green, Torquay GC, 41pts; 2. G Deakins, St Enodoc GC, 35pts; 3. G Moore, Launceston GC, 34pts. The prizes were presented by John Mullons, from Vitax, and Paul Clifton, from Bayer. In the afternoon Sarah Taylor, the Penhale Ranger from The Natural Environmental Services, presented the Educational talk and very entertaining it was too. As it was St Enodoc, a Championship Course, we had a full house. A huge thank you to Stuart Dymond, Course Manager, and all his staff for presenting both course in excellent condition.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Graeme Gallimore to our Section committee, Graeme is the Head Greenkeeper at Launceston GC, and he will run the education side, so I am sure he will be contacting you some time in the near future.

Last, but not least, please will you make a note in your diary that the mid-summer meeting will be held at Trethorne GC on June 14, a nine-hole golf competition will be followed by a barbecue and then ten-pin bowling. As I write this report I am looking out of the window at bright blue skies, and the temperature is just hitting 18 Celsius, and if this is only April, we will have a hot summer. The media seems to think so, so good luck with the automatic watering systems.

Donovan O Hunt

### South Wales

Hi lads, me and my big mouth! I wanted dry weather, well I got it big time, trouble was it had our old friend, Mr North East wind with it, last month we had loads of grass and could not cut it, this month we could cut it if we had it! Who would be a greenkeeper.

By now you should have had your fixtures and forms so fill them in and get them back. May 23 is the start of our fixtures so lets see if we can have a few more of you attending, we need your support, it's getting that there's more trade than greenkeepers, even if you don't play golf you can have a walk around the course and meet friends old and new, and have a few beers and listen to other peoples troubles - then sometimes yours don't seem so bad. Don't forget to let Peter know in advance if you are coming or it will cost you more on the day. I would like to say thank you to Dave Cary, I now it was last year but he turned up for a charity walk that about 20 of us did for my wife's cancer charity around Porthcawl in fancy dress, he turned up as Steve Irwin (crocodile hunter), thanks again mate from Norma and myself. One last thank you from Ceri Richards to all the people who turned up at their seminar to make it a great success.

That's it from me for another month, hope you have all got your water systems up and running without too many problems, if anyone fancies getting their name in print get in touch either by email: henry@henrystead.wannadoo.co.uk or ring me on: 07962162044 and remember, keep smiling.

Henry Stead

### Section Notes -

Can all notes be emailed to: melissa@bigga.co.uk by the 5th of the month prior to publication please. Suggested word guide: 500

# What's *your* Number?



**Name:** Roger Hargreaves  
**Company:** SISIS  
**Position:** Joint Managing Director

**How long have you been in the industry?**

"Since 1960. My first job was assembling SISIS Motorols and the first Rotorakes at the Company's Cheadle Works."

**How did you get into it?**

"SISIS is a family business – so I have been a part of it since birth."

**What other jobs have you done?**

"Pump Sales Engineer (power stations) for Mather & Platt Manchester."

**What do you like about your current job?**

"As Joint Managing Director it is a constant challenge to maintain profitability, while protecting the company's reputation for quality and service. It is a challenge I relish, and I am grateful for the efforts of the hard-working team here at Macclesfield, and of course my co-Managing Director, and brother, William. A bonus is the number of "characters" in our industry. It is always a delight to meet them at our frequent field day events and trade exhibitions."

**What changes have you seen during your time in the industry?**

"Having been in the industry for a considerable time, I suppose the most obvious change is the increase in mechanised maintenance, and SISIS has been at the forefront of this trend. It has also been gratifying to watch the improvement in knowledge and skills developed by greenkeepers, due to the many more educational opportunities now available. Golfers world-wide have high expectations from their courses and greenkeepers have risen to the challenge admirably. We hope that SISIS products have made a contribution to their easing their load!"

**What do you like to do in your spare time?**

"Amateur Radio and the usual spare-time pursuits, down the pub."

**Where do you see yourself in 10 years time?**

"On the Bacardi Beach in the Seychelles."

**Who do you consider to be your best friends in the industry?**

"Far too many to name individually – I am a very gregarious person!"

**What do you consider to be your lucky number?**

"Number 1."

**Pick a number.**

"Well I suppose it had better be my lucky number – 1."

**You've picked David Jenkins from DJ Turfcare, do you know him?**

"Yes."

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1. Rolling Stones
2. Tennis
3. Gareth Southgate
4. Jamie Redknapp
5. Phil Collins
6. Bernhard Langer
7. Basketball
8. Paula Radcliffe
9. Freddie Flintoff

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4	5	2	3	7	8	1	9	6
9	7	1	4	6	2	8	3	5
6	3	8	9	1	5	7	4	2
8	9	3	7	2	1	5	6	4
7	6	4	8	5	3	2	1	9
2	1	5	6	4	9	3	7	8
5	8	6	1	3	4	9	2	7
1	4	9	2	8	7	6	5	3
3	2	7	5	9	6	4	8	1

## SQUIGGLY SUDOKU

7	8	6	5	2	9	4	1	3
9	3	2	7	8	1	6	4	5
1	4	5	3	7	2	8	6	9
3	6	1	9	4	5	2	7	8
8	5	7	4	1	6	3	9	2
2	9	8	6	3	4	7	5	1
4	1	3	8	9	7	5	2	6
5	7	9	2	6	8	1	3	4
6	2	4	1	5	3	9	8	7

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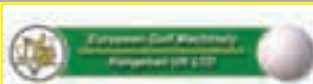
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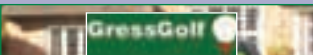
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## Reigate Hill Golf Club

### SENIOR EXPERIENCED GREENKEEPERS

are required at this rapidly improving, David Williams designed, Surrey club.

Applicants must possess the following:

- Minimum 3 years greenkeeping experience
  - NVQ 2 or equivalent
  - Relevant Spraying certificates
- A knowledge of machinery maintenance would be an advantage, although not essential

Applications in writing to: Neil Gilham, Course Manager,  
Reigate Hill Golf Club, Gatton Bottom, Reigate, Surrey. RH2 0TU.  
Or Email: neil@reigatehillgolfclub.co.uk



require

### Assistant Greenkeepers

Home of the Jack Nicklaus championship course. This 36 hole golf resort will host the seniors open 2007 and the English open 2008.

Applicants need to be enthusiastic and motivated, qualified to at least NVQ level 2 or equivalent, with a minimum of 2 years relevant experience. This represents an exciting opportunity to learn and develop at a premier european tour venue.

Apply in writing, with full C.V.  
stmellion@crown-golf.co.uk

Course Manager, St.Mellion International, St.Mellion,  
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## ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Due to our exciting golf developments at Rudding Park we are currently looking for an additional experienced Greenkeeper who is qualified to NVQ level 2.

If you are a hard worker, take pride in your work and enjoy working as part of a team then we want to hear from you.

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## THORPENESS HOTEL & GOLF CLUB Require a DEPUTY COURSE MANAGER

We are looking for an enthusiastic greenkeeper with a passion for course presentation. Thorpeness is a James Braid heathland course built in 1922.

Must be able to deputise for the Course Manager in all aspects of the job and help take Thorpeness to the next level.  
Closing date for applications is 25th May

Please apply in writing with full CV to:  
Ian Willett, Course Manager, Thorpeness Hotel & Golf Club  
Lakeside Avenue, Thorpeness, Suffolk IP16 4NH  
Or e-mail [Charlie@thorpeness.co.uk](mailto:Charlie@thorpeness.co.uk)

## The Hesketh Golf Club

Southport, venue of the R&A Junior Open Championship 2008, and the oldest golf club in Southport with a history of hosting National & International Championships have the opportunity to appoint a Head Greenkeeper.

The successful candidate will have:-

- Several years experience as a Head Greenkeeper looking to advance their career by moving to a high profile role.
- Qualified as a minimum to NVQ level 4 or equivalent in sports turf management and PA1 PA2 and PA\* qualification.
  - Proven record in leadership and man management skills with experience to present a championship venue to the highest possible standard.
- Ability to manage resources, budgets with a thorough knowledge of all relevant legislation and can demonstrate effective implementation.
- IT skills and knowledge of machinery, irrigation systems and controls.
- Able to communicate effectively with staff, members and committees through a variety of means.

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Closing date for applications Monday 20th May 2007.



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## MOORTOWN GOLF CLUB

Applications are invited for the position of

### HEAD GREENKEEPER

Moortown is a heath land course designed by Dr Alistair MacKenzie and opened in 1909. The course was the venue for the first home Ryder Cup match in 1929 and has since been the venue for many important professional and amateur championships. It continues to host major amateur events and in its Centenary in 2009, will host the English Amateur Stroke Play Championship for the Brabazon Trophy.

There is a programme of architectural restoration in progress under the supervision of our golf course architect and the Club retains an eminent Consultant Agronomist.

This is a traditional private members' club which intends to appoint a new Head Greenkeeper due to the retirement of the present incumbent after 34 years in the position.

The successful candidate will work with the Club's Agronomist and the General Committee through the Chairman of Green and will ideally already have experience as a Head Greenkeeper, or be a Deputy Head Greenkeeper at a prominent golf course.

#### The necessary qualities are:

**Several years of golf course management experience • The relevant qualifications  
Good people-management skills • Full Health & Safety, Environment Protection & COSHH skills  
The ability to assist in preparation of annual budgets for the green operation • IT skills  
Good communication skills**

This is a demanding role requiring someone of the highest ability who can maintain and develop a golf course of considerable reputation.

Salary and benefits will be subject to negotiation according to experience and qualifications.

**Applications with full CV by 31st May to the Secretary, Moortown Golf Club, Harrogate Road, Leeds, LS17 7DB  
or email to rlimbert@moortown-gc.co.uk.**



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GLEDDOCH HOUSE HOTEL & GOLF CLUB

Applications are invited for the position of

### HEAD GREENKEEPER

Founded in 1974, a well-established private members club with 400+ members. This 6283 yard, par 71 parkland course has an excellent reputation and is one of Renfrewshire's premier courses.

Applicants should be technically qualified in all aspects of greenkeeping and possess the necessary management skills to train, motivate and direct staff.

A proven ability to manage resources efficiently and exercise budgetary controls is required, together with the aptitude to prepare and manage work schedules. A sound knowledge of Health & Safety regulations is essential.

Remuneration package negotiable.

Applications in writing and enclose full CV by 11th May 2007 to:  
Kevin McAteer, Golf Manager

**VACANCY ALSO EXISTS FOR  
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## Head Greenkeeper

Venue: Eden Course, St Andrews



A vacancy has arisen within our greenkeeping team for a Head Greenkeeper on the Eden Course at St Andrews Links.

Opened in 1914, the Eden was designed by Harry S Colt with assistance from Alister MacKenzie. It was remodelled in 1988 by Donald Steel. A popular classic, the Eden sustains up to 40,000 rounds per year. The Eden hosts a number of national amateur competitions and was a venue for the 2003 British Mid-Amateur.

The position of Head Greenkeeper requires an enthusiastic, conscientious and self motivated professional with at least seven years' practical experience and good people management skills. Knowledge of the special demands a links environment places on greenkeepers would be advantageous.

Reporting to the Links Superintendent, the successful applicant will also be responsible for maintaining the 9 hole Balgove Course, a course specially designed with beginners, children and families in mind, which lies adjacent to the Eden, and will be expected to assist in preparations for events on other Links courses, including the Old Course.

We would expect the candidate to have NVQ/SVQ level 3 or HNC qualifications and any relevant safety certificates as well as being technically qualified in all aspects of greenkeeping including fully automated irrigation systems.

We offer a competitive salary, contributory pension scheme and other benefits.

Please apply in writing to: Ann Stuart, HR Manager, St Andrews Links Trust, Pilmour House, St Andrews. KY16 9SF.  
Email: [astuart@standrews.org.uk](mailto:astuart@standrews.org.uk)

**Closing date for applications is 18 May 2007**

## HANDSWORTH GOLF CLUB LTD

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### DEPUTY HEAD GREENKEEPER

To join a team looking after an 18 hole parkland course. The successful applicant must have NVQ2 and spraying certificates.

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Applications in writing with CV to:  
Green Chairman, Handsworth Golf Club Ltd,  
11 Sunningdale Close, Handsworth wood,  
Birmingham, B20 1NP

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### AN OPPORTUNITY HAS ARISEN FOR FULL-TIME ASSISTANT GREENKEEPERS

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Qualified to NVQ level 2 or equivalent, experience is preferred but not essential.

Please apply by sending a written application including full CV to:  
**Tracy Rees, Personnel Manager, Mere Golf & Country Club,**  
Chester Road, Mere, Knutsford, Cheshire, WA16 6LJ  
or email [tracy@meregolf.co.uk](mailto:tracy@meregolf.co.uk)

# EAST BERKSHIRE GOLF CLUB

## Deputy Course Manager

**East Berkshire Golf Club, established a little over a century ago is located in the village of Crowthorne, a few miles from the Hampshire and Surrey borders. Originally a heathland course it has matured into a tree-lined course of great beauty. Golfers of all abilities leave the course with a desire to return and attempt to better their rounds, if only by a shot or two.**

### The Role

We are looking for a highly motivated, hard working, conscientious turf professional who can work within a dedicated team. You will be expected to deputise in the absence of the Course Manager, and be able to make contributions to the short, medium and long term maintenance to ensure the course keeps to the highest standard of presentation. You will be conversant with both modern and traditional turf culture practices, and be mechanically minded and competent in dealing with problems with machinery and irrigation systems, servicing and fault diagnosis.

### Requirements

Qualified / working towards NVQ3; Have a minimum of 5 years greenkeeping experience; Hold PA1, PA2 & PA6 certificates; Have a sound knowledge of Health & Safety issues. The ability to play golf would be an advantage.

**Salary negotiable according to experience/qualifications. (No accommodation available).**

Please apply by sending a C.V. with a covering letter for the attention of:  
The Secretary, East Berkshire Golf Club, Ravenswood Avenue, Crowthorne, Berkshire RG45 6BD

**Closing date for applications –8th June 2007**