



SOUTH EAST - KENT

What a great day we had recently at The Wildernesse Club for our Autumn meeting.

A fun, team Texas Scramble format, great company, quality food and an unrivalled golf course. Many thanks to Mark Todd and his team for providing a stunning setting for us all to enjoy. Brian Willmott must have particularly enjoyed it as Duncan Kelso noticed that he appeared to be "Stiffening up" as he collected his nearest the pin prize!

It was nice to see many new faces at Wildernesse. I hope you all enjoyed yourselves and that you will become regular attendees at future events. Full results of the day as follows: 1st on 5 under par Gary Branchett, Paul Rudkin, Mark Wise; 2nd on 4 under par Duncan Kelso, John Millen, Dave Vidler; 3rd on 2 under par Paul Boozer, Matt Gray, Rob Holland. Nearest the pin was won by Brian Willmott and Longest Drive by Michael Wigstone.

On November, 29 the Kent Section annual tour draws to a close when the Turkey Trot shall be contested at Birchwood Park. Lets hope our Indian Summer continues until then at least! We shall be teeing off from 8.45am, having a three course Christmas dinner, lots of prizes and holding our AGM. Having an early start will hopefully enable many of you to be present for the whole day. If you wish to raise any issues for discussion or if you wish to join or change the current committee could we please have proposals in writing prior to the event. A fixture card for all 2008 events will also be distributed to all attendees on the day so you can plan your work programmes around our activities wherever possible.

I hope all of you who attended benefited from and enjoyed the Regional Seminar we hosted for the South East Region at the end of October. A lot of planning went into producing what looked to be a pretty comprehensive coverage on our overall working topic of "Climate of Change". Our usual industry days shall continue over the Winter months. Please consult our website or continue reading this column for more details.

Rob Holland kentgreenkeepers.co.uk



SUSSEX

Hello again, can anyone believe we are this close to Christmas already, the year seems to have flown by.

We have had a few events recently, the first was our Autumn meeting on September 13 which was held at Cooden Beach. I would like to thank everyone at Cooden for their hospitality, and big thanks to John Hill, Carl Wyborne and the team for providing such a great course and a cracking day - The greens were the best I have played on this year.

A big thanks to Blade Amenity for sponsoring the day, so well done Mark Wilton. The results were as follows: Nearest Pin on 3rd - Francois

Russell, Nearest Pin on 6th - Chris Ahier; Longest Drive on 18th - Phil Squelsch. Greenkeepers prizes: 1st - Glen Pollard, 39 pts; 2nd - Peter Ray, 37 pts; 3rd - Dave Allen, 36 pts. Guests prizes: 1st - Gerome Finley, 34pts; 2nd - Gary "Ian Beale" Ogily, 32 pts; 3rd - Darren Mitchel, 32 pts. Thank you to everyone who attended the day, there were some great prizes to be won from dvd and TV's to digital radios, so congratulations to those of you who won.

The next event is the three way game between us, Surrey and Essex. this was held at Colne Valley. Thanks must go to Tom Smith who hosted the game and also organised it together with John Ross. The course was in very good condition, but very tough.

The team we took up and a big thank you to them was: Dan Beard, Chris Ahier, Dave Allen, Rob Hudson, Matt Cossley, Dave Ansell, Rob Short, Tony Wooley, Dave Hinks, Ian Beale and Pete Crossley. Results: 1st Essex, 233; 2nd Sussex, 215; last Surrey, 198.

The way it worked, we took the best eight Stableford scores from eleven and added them all up. I can quite remember the finishing scores but we didn't come last!

The next event will be the Turkey Trot held at Worthing GC on November 30 which is not to be missed. for me it is the best event of the year, no one goes home empty handed and everyone has a great time.

We have got a game of football against Surrey on October 25 with our brand new, sponsored by Rigby Taylor, kit. Thanks to Mike Ring for organising the kit, may we have many wins in it.

If you want to get in touch Tel: 07776223234 or Email: robert.hudson77@btinternet.com

Rob Hudson



LONDON

Well time certainly does fly by with summer being a distant memory.

October proved to be a busy month for London Section and as a result we are pleased to announce that this coming December will see the official launch of our very own website www.biggalondonsection.co.uk.

On top of that, for 2008 there will be a new trophy to play for in the form of a matchplay competition, which is to be played throughout the year with knockout stages, more to come on this next month so stay tuned.

Also not to forget that Christmas is almost upon us and that means only one thing, the Scotts Trophy at Porters Park - Will it be another Northwood victory for the third year running?

P.S. look out for the website.

Aaron Percival
Secretary



Around the Green

EAST ANGLIA



Our band of brothers (and Clare), ascended on Eaton Golf Club on 12 September 2007. All nearly went smoothly until Ian found out it was a two tee start and had to re-arrange the start times at the last minute. All my fault I'm afraid (a senior moment). I forgot to tell him! I hope all those who came enjoyed their day as much as we enjoyed "preparing" the course.

The event was sponsored by Bartram Mowers. Incidentally Barry Bartram started in a small workshop at Norwich Airport in 1972 - The same time I arrived at Eaton on an old BSA motorbike. One of us has clearly moved on somewhat. I've still got by Bike!

I digress, now for the important bit. 0 - 9 Handicap: 1. Mark Henderson, 35 pts on countback; 2. Chris O'Dowd; 3. Graham Hurren, 34 pts. 10 - 18 Handicap: 1. David Farmer, 35 pts; 2. Glen Rayfield, 34 pts; 3. Ian Willett, 30 pts. 19 - 24 Handicap: 1. Andy Baker, 33 pts; 2. Neville Rowlandson, 26 pts; 3. Richard Mitchell, 25 pts. G & T's: 1. Eddie Jack, 42 pts (who wrote the script); 2. Ian Benn, 39 pts; 3. Mark Keysall, 36 pts. Longest Drive - James Gill; Nearest Pin - Neville Rowlandson. The prizes were presented by Terry Upton of Bartram Mowers.

(Another senior moment) Step up Bob Chesham, of Sisis, who sent everyone diving for cover when he was approaching the 18th. From 20 yards he thinned one and struck the clubhouse wall. He is now the proud winner of our coveted "loo seat." As always our trade friends did us proud and they are as follows: Bartram Mowers, Textron, Tacit, Rigby Taylor, CMW, Sisis, A & K Supplies, Midlube, Collier Turf Care, Aitkens, Scotts, Earnest Doe, Ben Burgess, Sherriff (of Nottingham), Toro, Tomlinson Ground Care, Consultant Clarkson, Headland, Atterton & Ellis and Lely UK. I hope you all had a good day and thank you Eaton GC for your support in stepping when a neighbouring club double booked!

Danny, from Bartrams, was recently married. I thought he said he had his honeymoon in Maldon. Seemed a bit strange to me but it turned out to be the Maldives. It's that language barrier I guess. And don't mention suppositories to Mark Day - he'll tell you where to put them!

It has also been brought to my attention that some clubs are not giving us courtesy of the course. I know we are a big group but most of us have given nearly all our working lives to golf. Indeed in our Section I'll bet that working years are almost 2,000 between us. We visit five courses a year and spread them out as much as we can. I know there is no such thing as a "free lunch" but if you ain't got a greenkeeper, you ain't got a course. Is a bit of courtesy really too much to ask?

Mick Lathrope



ESSEX

North Weald GC played host to the Winter Trophy on a dry but cold and windy day at the end of September. Club owner, Andrew Lloyd-Skinner,

welcomed us to his club and offered a few words of, keep it straight and stay out of trouble, which was easier said than done on a windy day. He is backed by a fine course staff under the leadership of Bryan Girling who had put a lot of effort into producing such a fine course for all of us to enjoy. Despite some heavy reconstruction works going on around the perimeters of the course, and with the trundle of lorries every few minutes. Play was not disrupted and that is down to some well thought out planning by the clubs owner. We all enjoyed the day and food that followed the game. The Essex Section wish thanks Andrew and Bryan for the day and look forward to returning in the future, to see the fruits of the construction work. That I'm sure will make the course even more interesting to play.

Winners were as follows: Overall. Don Clark, Orsett GC, 38 pts; 1.1 Tony Barker, North Weald GC, 35 pts; 1.2 Ben Sharpe, Orsett GC, 34 pts; 1.3 Roland Hughes, Forrester Park G&TC, 34 pts on count back. 2.1 Andy Cracknell, Orsett GC, 37 pts; 2.2 Nick Swanson, Orsett GC, 36 pts; 2.3 Keith Chinnery, Colchester GC, 35 pts. Nearest the Pin, Lewis Tweed. Longest Drive, Daniel Hughes. Guest Prize, Roy Sprong 40 pts. Trade Prize, Mark Keysell 32 pts. Chris Wild was happy to hand out the prizes on behalf of Rigby Taylor, which had representation from Steve Denton and Mark Keysell and ex member of staff Dennis Smith. A fine raffle table was helped out by trade members who always support us so well.

Move news this month is that David Beale, Orsett Golf Club, who over the years has supported the Section with a long stint on the committee as competition secretary. Has decided to leave the profession and take up the art of house building. We wish him well over the coming months and years.

Also David Tindell has left the profession having joined Stock Brook the Country Club a year ago on his return from the USA having just completed a year with the Ohio State University project, Stock Brook staff wish him every success.

The next event is the Winter Stableford Tournament, at North Weald Golf Club.

November 27. Christmas Texas Scramble and AGM at Orsett GC. Teams of Four. Each team must comprise of at least two Greenkeeper members and then can be made up of anyone else, Trade, Guest or Greenkeeper. You choose and make up your own team. Antony will not be making the selections; it's up to you. Entries to Antony Kirwan, on the official entry forms please, with your entry fees.

Any queries contact Antony on 0707887-780.065 or by E-mail: antz16@btinternet.com

Anyone wishing to raise anything or be considered for the committee at the forthcoming AGM should contact, Martin Forrester as soon as possible, cut of date 10 days prior to the meeting. E-mail: mdwforrester@hotmail.com Anyone who has any news can contact me at highwoods.photographic@talktalk.net or call me on: 01206 852353

Arnold Phipps-Jones www.essexbigga.co.uk



SOUTH WEST & WALES - SOUTH WEST

I was down at Cannington College last week for the first in a series of one-day training courses. This particular day was devoted to Health & Safety plus Accident Reporting, and was led by Frank Newberry and Jon Allbutt, with support from Paul Woodham and Hugh Murray. The content was spot-on when considering Risk Assessments of the golf course, machinery areas, and general Safety. There are a number of other similar training days in the offing, which are actually attached to the current NVQ 3 course on-going this winter, but remember, you don't have to be enrolled on any formal course with the College to attend, simply ring or return the application form to book your place on the day in question: 31.10.2007 – Machinery Maintenance; 28.11.2007 – Drainage; 07.01.2008 – Course Presentation; 27.02.2008 – Manage Oneself; 26.3.2008 – Create Grassed & Planted areas. Contact George Pitts at Bridgwater College on: 01278 655144 or 07929 754401 or email pittsg@brdgwatercollege.co.uk to discuss content and times etc. From what I've seen, these days are well worth consideration.

In the Section, congratulations are finally due to the Section Team. After what can best be described as a "difficult season", McClaren Vincent and the lads finally came good at Farrington Gurney against the South Coast Section. McClaren's new five million pound strikers, Nigel Pring and Robin Greaves, led an improbable comeback from five down with six holes to play to snatch the point and turn the match 31\2 to 2 1\2 in our favour. I wasn't able to play myself, but I'm told that the course was in fantastic condition, so many thanks to Nigel Pring and his team, and to Farrington Gurney Golf Club for allowing us to play and courtesy of the course – the first time that the Section had visited.

Back at Minch we've just hosted South West Seniors Golf Week, and it was really nice to bump into Lauchlan "Jock" Millar yet again. Jock retired from greenkeeping some eight years ago, having had spells at Brunham & Berrow, Moor Park, St. Pierre, and again at Burnham & Berrow, but still plays a mean game off 5 and still represents his county at senior level. We had a good chat about greenkeeping in general (and Burnham in particular!) about which he was extremely complimentary. It was great to hear that his sons, Lauchlan junior, and Kelvin, are enjoying successful careers as Course Managers at Hayling Island and Churston Ferrers respectively.

Fixtures are largely in place for next season, early dates for your diaries are:

- Winter Tournament, Kingsdown, February 21
- Spring Meeting, Clevedon, April 24
- Greenkeeper\Amateur, Minchinhampton Old Course, May 13
- Summer Tournament, The Bristol, July 24
- Autumn Tournament, Marlborough, October TBC + AGM
- Christmas, Weston Super Mare, December 18

Many thanks to all those golf clubs, and grateful thanks to the greenkeepers who helped with the organisation. If you would like to host an event for 2009, please let me know (it's never too early to start booking!).

I might just take this opportunity to thank and acknowledge our Patronage Partners for their sponsorship of the Section this year. The money is

put to very good use – sponsoring a place at Harrogate, ten places at the Cannington Seminar, a representative at the National Tournament, and helping to administer the section. Thank you gentlemen and in no particular order – Avoncrop Amenity, Vitax, Irritech, Tower Sport Europe, B.S. Mowers, Rigby Taylor, Symbio, Countrywide, M.J. Abbott your help is very much appreciated. Please consider these companies when making purchasing decisions.

Our best wishes to Rich Carter, Lansdown, who was attacked in the street a month ago and hasn't played golf since – a swift and complete recovery to one of Gloucestershire's finest players.

In the meantime, look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at Burnham & Berrow for this year's Christmas event in December, so keep a sharp look-out in the post for the entry form. Any news from your courses would be welcome.

Paul Worster paulw@mgcnew.co.uk 01453 837355



SOUTH COAST

I'm always saying how quickly the year passes, it only seems like yesterday I reported last year's annual match between the South Coast & the South West Sections. Once again this event was upon us taking place at Farrington Golf and Country Club near Bristol on September 13. I'm sorry to say history repeated itself and the South Coast lost. The score was 1.5 points to 3.5 points. Many congratulations to the South West team and many thanks to our players for taking part in what was a very sociable and enjoyable day. Much praise goes to Nigel Pring the Course Manager and his team for providing the course in tip-top condition. The catering and the club staff were very friendly, providing a welcoming atmosphere and excellent food. Thanks to all at Farrington Golf and Country Club.

You'll notice my report this month is a bit short in length. This is for two reasons. I'm moving house or hope to be! What do you call a room full of conveyancers?! The answer...well it's too rude to print in such a quality publication as Greenkeeper International. On my rounds ask me and I'll give you a quick reply and you never know we might be in our new house by the time we play Barton-On-Sea on December 5! If you want to attend this or any of our Golf Days please contact Chris Sturgess on: 0777 313 8409 or send a cheque, made out to BIGGA South Coast, to Chris direct at his home address: 31 Bay Rd, Sholing, Southampton SO19 8EZ. The other reason is I need some more news from you guys. Thanks to those who have informed me about happy events like exam successes and winning golf tournaments but, please, I need more stories. I always say it, but I'll say it again, it's your Section, make the most of it. Please contact me on my mobile number which is below.

Well that's it for this month. Last month, when I finished the article, I started packing for Saltex. This month, I'm now off to pack lots and lots of boxes for my new abode – what joy!

Joe Crawley 07721 389200

Around the Green

DEVON AND CORNWALL



By the time you all read this column, we would have had our first meeting at Elfordleigh including the Section AGM. I look forward to this time of year where we can all meet up, have a good old natter and try to put the world to rights.

We have made some changes this year into the way we run your Section. Some of us 'oldies' are hanging up our boots paving the way for the 'young guns' to take us forward. I think we now have a good balance of young and old, Abi representing the young, Colin representing the old and Billy representing the very old (sorry Bill but it seems like you've been here forever). Joking aside, I do think we have a good balanced committee with lots of enthusiasm and I wish you all the very best of luck.

Our next meeting will be at Killiow Golf Club in Cornwall, on November 7 and the South West Seminar at Cannington College in Bridgewater on November 15 - Don't forget the Christmas meeting at Okehampton on December 11 and book your place early to avoid disappointment.

Last but not least the BTME Education Week in Harrogate. Your Section has once again laid on free transport with pick up points in Devon and Cornwall. If you haven't done so already, you need to book your place through our Secretary, Abi Crosswood. Abi can be contacted at: 28 Porthbean, Newquay, Cornwall TR7 3JE or: 01637 871166. Please book early as places are very limited. The bus will be leaving the last pick up point at Cullompton approx. 9.30am on Monday, January 21, 2008 and returning at 12.30pm on Thursday, January 24. (times to be confirmed). The cost for the trip is £133.50 for a twin room or £222 for a single room which includes 3 nights B&B at the Cairn hotel in Harrogate plus your entry into the conference centre. Although some seminars are free there are ones which will need to be booked through BIGGA HQ at Aldwark. Details of all the education courses and seminars, if not already with you, will be sent out in the near future.

Here's hoping you all have a disease free autumn especially you lowie mowie boys (pink flying pig just gone over) and I look forward to meeting up with you all soon.

Steve Evans



SOUTH WALES

Hi everyone, I hope you are not too stressed out after the wettest summer we have had in years and that your autumn work is well in hand, at The Grove we are just about finished.

My first report is on our annual match v the Golf Club Secretaries which took place at the Inco GC on Thursday, September 27 before I reveal the results I must give thanks to the following, Inco Golf Club for the courtesy off their fine course, the Club Captain, Mr Phil Symons, for presenting the prizes, Mr Emy Nickels and his crew for the superb condition of his

course - Congratulations Emyr you can stop taking the Valliam now! The catering and bar staff for their friendly welcome and fine meal.

Our sponsors for the day were Complete Weed Control, Mr Allen Able - If you did not know it Allen broke his foot a few weeks ago and although in pain turned up and went around the course in a J.D Gaiter to support both teams that's what I call dedication! Many thanks Allen your continued support is much appreciated (hope the foot mends soon).

On to the results and although we were two men short the result went our way, 4 to 3, well done lads especially you boys that played on your own, of which I must include our Chairman, Kerry Jones, because he played with me, sorry Kerry and John and Mansel. Prizes for Nearest the Pin 6th - Ian Church (Ashburnham Secretary), Nearest Pin 13th - Andy Roach and Longest Drive - Andy Roach, Nearest the Pin 13th another familiar name, Daryl Jones Nearest the Pin 8th Daryl Jones, these boys all won a bottle of fine whiskey and when a Scots man donates the prize you know it must be a good one, ones again thank you Allen. Last but not least thank you all for taking part.

One last piece of news, although you all know it by now, Mr Peter Lacey is the new Tower Chemicals rep so by the time this report comes out you will properly had a visit (give the old boy a cup of tea). All the very best from us all, Peter.

That's it for now lads so just remember keep smiling, news and views to: henry@henrystead.wanadoo.co.uk.

Henry Stead

BIGGA's Regional Administrators



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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

CROSSWORD

C	R	E	A	T	U	R	E	O	F	H	A	B	I	T
A	L	H	O	R	O	U								
L	I	E	G	E	A	V	A	I	L	A	B	L	E	
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P	U	T	R	I	D	E	G	G	S	A	L	A	D	
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H	A	M	M	E	R	A	N	D	S	I	C	K	L	E

QUICK NINE HOLE QUIZ

- 1 She was a woman!
- 2 Bobby Jones
- 3 Kenny Logan
- 4 Wembley
- 5 Reebok
- 6 Barcelona
- 7 The rings
- 8 The Kangaroos
- 9 5

MONSTER SUDOKU

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

SQUIGGLY SUDOKU

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

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Braintree Golf Club Ltd

Invites applications for the position of

Mechanic / Greenkeeper



Braintree Golf Club currently has a vacancy for a suitably qualified mechanic, who also has skills relating to greenkeeping, to join our skilled and enthusiastic course management team.

The successful applicant will report to the Course manager and be responsible for all aspects of the machinery maintenance, the day to day servicing, the grinding of cylinders and the general health and safety of the workshop, as well as contributing to the maintenance and upkeep of the golf course.

Ideally the candidate will have a proven career record and the experience of working in the golf club environment. An NVQ2, spraying qualifications and any machinery certification would be an advantage.

Salary is negotiable dependant on qualification and experience. 20 days paid annual leave plus bank holidays.

Please apply in writing with full CV and two references by Friday the 23rd of November to:
Kevan Sharpe, Course Manager, Braintree Golf Club,
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BUCKINGHAMSHIRE GOLF CLUB

The Buckinghamshire Golf Club has vacancies for 2 fully qualified experienced greenkeepers to work and play on our 18 Championship Golf Course.

The successful applicants should have a minimum of 2-3 years experience and should be qualified to NVQ level 2. Spraying qualifications and driving licence would be an advantage.

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Please apply with full CV to
Erik Kinlon, Course Manager,
 The Buckinghamshire Golf Club,
 Denham Court Drive, Denham, Bucks, UB9 5PG.



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ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Applicants are invited to apply for the above position at this archetypal parkland club. Ideally the successful candidate will be enthusiastic, reliable and will be qualified to NVQ level 2, have relevant spraying certificates and have experience of greenkeeping at a golf club.

Salary will be between £15,000 - £19,000 dependant on experience.

Applications should be sent accompanied with a CV to:
The Course Manager, Chipping, Norton Golf Club,
 Southcombe, Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire OX7 5QH

Head Greenkeeper Venue: Thamesview Golf Centre

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Applications in writing plus curriculum vitae to:

The General Manager
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With a minimum of five years' experience as a Greenkeeper, you'll bring the ability to deal confidently with members of the public, colleagues and external organisations and also to work on your own initiative. Ideally, you will possess or be working towards NVQ Level 3 or equivalent in Sports and Turf Management or a related qualification, although this is not essential.

For an informal discussion please contact either Sean Thomas or Neil Drew on (01325) 388406.

Application packs are available on-line at:
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Only candidates who are fully qualified - minimum NVQ level 3 or equivalent - and preferably (but not essential) have experience in managing a links course, should apply and, in addition, they should have the following attributes:-

- Ability to lead and motivate staff.
- Excellent communication skills, together with knowledge of IT.
- Expert knowledge of irrigation systems and machinery.
- Ability to manage resources effectively within budgetary controls.
- Knowledge of all relevant health & safety and other statutory legislation.

Please apply in writing for an application form and outline job description to:

The Secretary/Manager, Formby Golf Club, Golf Road,
 Formby, Liverpool L37 1LQ,
 or by email to info@formbygolfclub.co.uk.

Closing date for applications:- 14th December 2007



www.darlington.gov.uk/jobs

Head Greenkeeper

Required by

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- Minimum of 5 years golf course experience
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 - Spraying certificates PA 1, 2 & 6
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Please reply in writing by 30th December 2007 with C.V to:

Scott Ballentine, Secretary
Royal Worlington & Newmarket Golf Club, Golf Links Road,
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Course Manager

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- A highly motivated individual with a proven record in man-management skills and the ability to drive the very best from a team
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- Financial awareness to plan strategically with regards to staff, machinery, feed regimes, and practices, for the long-term benefit of the venue.

- The ability to deliver effective performance management
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