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To train the next generation of Greenkeepers and Golf course managers at one of the leading college facilities in Europe. You will develop a range of new training courses, teach to excellent standards and represent the College with the industry's professional bodies. You will need an advanced craft qualification in Sports Turf, Greenkeeping or Golf course management, relevant experience and teaching/training experience. A teaching qualification is desirable, but in-house training is available.

We are an Equal Opportunities Employer
Closing date for all posts: Friday 25 January 2008



Apply on-line at

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or sqs@bridgewater.ac.uk or 01278 441221



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Amenity Sales Executive

WFSborder Limited is a successful supplier in the Amenity Market. We are main distributors for all the leading manufacturers in the industry.

Based in Craven Arms, Shropshire we are looking for a Sales Executive in South Wales to develop new and existing business. You will ideally have a BASIS (Amenity) qualification and experience in sales.

An excellent remuneration package is on offer to the successful candidate.

Please apply in writing with full CV to Mr Peter Evans Amenity Manager

WFSborder Limited, Craven Arms Business Park, Long Lane, Craven Arms, Shropshire. SY7 8NR or email to peter.evans@wfsagri.net



WFSborder

HEATON MOOR GOLF CLUB

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

We are looking for a reliable, hard working person who has a willingness to learn and improve. The successful candidate will be part of a team that takes pride in producing a golf course of high quality.

Requirements:

Minimum of two years golf course experience – NVQ2 or equivalent

Salary negotiable depending on age and experience.

Please reply in writing to:

The Ground Chairman, Heaton Moor Golf Club,
Mauldeth Road, Heaton Mersey, Stockport, SK4 3NX.



ROYAL ST. GEORGE'S GOLF CLUB
recently awarded the 2011 Open Championship

has a vacancy for a

Grass Machinery Mechanic

The successful candidate will be a qualified mechanic with experience on a recognised golf course and will be required to work a basic 40-hour week and some overtime at peak periods. The package will include a competitive salary together with a generous pension contribution. If necessary, additional training on specific equipment will be arranged with the manufacturer. Comprehensive workshop facilities will be provided.

Assistant Greenkeeper

The successful candidate will have a minimum of 2 years experience on a recognised golf course and will be required to work a basic 40 hour week, including some weekends. NVQ level 2 qualifications and spraying certificate would be an advantage.

Please apply in writing or by email, with CV to:
The Secretary, The Royal St George's Golf Club, Sandwich,
Kent CT13 9PB – secretary@royalstgeorges.com



Wilderness Club

Founded in 1890, Wilderness Club is an 18 hole, high quality, Private Members Club and is looking to recruit a highly motivated

Deputy Course Manager.

The Club offers excellent working conditions with a large fleet of modern greenkeeping machinery.

The ideal candidate must have;

- a minimum of 6 years Greenkeeping experience
- Minimum NVQ III or equivalent
- PA1, 2 and 6a Spraying Certificates
- Be highly self-motivated
- Have a strong work ethic
- Ability to lead and motivate staff, with, and in the absence of the Course Manager
- Proven communication skills
- Ability to produce and maintain high standards of work on the Golf Course
- Understanding of Health and Safety Regulations and Requirements
- Knowledge of modern irrigation systems and techniques

An excellent package including pension awaits the successful candidate. No accommodation is available.

Please send a current CV together with an application letter by

21 January 2008 to:

The Secretary, Wilderness Club Ltd, Park Lane, Seal, Sevenoaks, Kent,
TN15 0JE

BIGGA MERCHANDISE

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COURSE MANAGER COMPETITIVE SALARY PACKAGE



Wimbledon Park Golf Club is seeking an experienced and appropriately qualified **COURSE MANAGER** to join our Club team.

Set in a picturesque parkland environment, the Club has a well developed, mature 18 hole course that provides members and guests with the opportunity to enjoy the game of golf.

Applicants must have a proven track record with a minimum of 3 years experience as a Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper, and a minimum qualification to NVQ Level 3 in Sports Turf Management. The ability to lead and work with an established greenkeeping team is essential, along with a determined, hands on approach to the work. The successful applicant will have a range of modern course machinery and an appropriate budget to help develop and improve the course and should possess relevant technical and management skills.

A competitive salary is available to the successful candidate and accommodation may also be available on a temporary basis. If you would like to be part of our team, please send your CV with a covering letter to:

Patrick Shanahan
General Manager
Wimbledon Park Golf Club
Home Park Road
Wimbledon Park SW19 7HR

or alternatively
e-mail your CV and letter to patrick@wpgc.co.uk

CLOSING DATE: 4th February 2008

BIGGA MEMBERSHIP



STUDENT BENEFITS

MEMBERS HANDBOOK

A free yearly copy of this indispensable tool, enabling members to track down professional help and keep contact with contemporaries

FREE FIELD GUIDES

A set of field guides is available to every member on request. This handy guide is produced in an easy to use format and is an aid to course identification. Call 01347 833800.

BIGGA LIBRARY

The BIGGA Library boasts over 650 books available to borrow for up to six weeks. The only cost is that of returning the book to HQ.

NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

When you join you are automatically given membership of one of the 27 sections around the country. As an active member you can attend golf days and other social events on a regular basis enabling you to network amongst others in the industry. Look at the 'Around the Green' section for contact details.

EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

All Members are invited to a Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Scheme, which records education and training achievement. Regional training courses are offered alongside regional and national seminars and workshops.

CAR LEASING

Driving a brand new car couldn't be easier. Bigga has teamed up with Lex FreeChoice to offer an exclusive scheme, which allows you and your family members to drive the car you've always wanted at a price you can afford. Call 0800 419 930 and quote BIGGA.

CAR RENTAL

BIGGA have enrolled in National's Affinity Leisure Programme that offers members exclusive rates on car and van hire in the UK and on international car hire in over 80 countries. Ring 0870 191 6950 and quote A099084 for UK Car hire, A099085 for UK Van Hire and 8573290 for International Car Hire.

INSURANCE QUOTATION SERVICE

A quotation service is available to members on a wide range of insurance products. Call 01603 828255 and quote UniBG0306

BIGGA WEBSITE – WWW.BIGGA.ORG.UK

Exclusive access to the Members area of the website. Interact with other greenkeepers on the bulletin board or check out the latest recruitment vacancies in the industry.

MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTION

A monthly copy of BIGGA's award winning magazine delivered free to your door, keeping you up to date with all that's new in the industry. This publication could prove to be a valuable study tool.

JOBS ONLINE

You will find greenkeeping jobs on the BIGGA website for apprentice and assistant greenkeepers.



ABOVE: Greenkeeper International magazine
LEFT: The BIGGA website

A SAD GOODBYE

We are blessed today with some of the finest equipment in the world to help us maintain our golf courses, the manufactures have, year on year, invested time, money and effort into development to aid the greenkeeper at grass roots.

I fondly remember my experiences on the farm as a wee boy doing a summer job and seeing the farmer get the tractor out of the shed. Now this was no ordinary tractor, it mostly spent its life in the shed and would only be brought out for special occasions. It was a fruit farm and most of the lugging was done by wheelbarrow and of course by the seasonal helpers from the village and surrounding towns. I remember the tractor driver getting it out was quite an event. It was an old Massey Ferguson with a spotlight on the front, not only did it have its own shed but it had clothes too. Before this tractor went to work there was a hive of activity. Firstly it was undressed with all its finery removed; then the battery, which was stored elsewhere was fitted; next it was fuelled from a watering can and then dusted down.

It was then the big moment when Willie would start the engine with a cloud of smoke. He would then start a process of twiddling and turning a knob and when finished he drove the tractor in all its splendour out of the shed to get to work.

As usual I have gone off the subject and delved into my past, but the reason for the story was not wasted I hope. Yes the tractor was wonderful and will always be a special memory, but it was not the tractor that inspired the story, it was Willie who made it a truly wonderful experience and that's what I really wanted to touch on in this my final column.

Yes we do it with grass, with the wonderful machinery available today, but my most memorable experiences during this past year have without doubt been the people I have met along.

Now to mention by name all those who have made my journey such a pleasant one would be impossible. The passion I had been told was weaning and lost forever, but it's still evident to me in abundance and that's got to be a good thing.



The world is a changing and we have to adapt, taking with us all that is the special and developing into the future.

This year we've had a major push on sustainable golf, it's hard to pick up a magazine without the subject matter being discussed. Well is it the new magical recipe for success or not? Well of course it is, because it's nothing new. It's been with us since time and memorial it's called good greenkeeping. A new name for a tried and tested system for producing a fine golfing venue with judicial imputes of all the ingredients to produce fine turf that can take the game of golf into the future with the blessing of the general public.

The point is this, it should not or ever be viewed as an evangelical visionary new idea because that turns people off to the fact that it's got to be right way to go forward.

I am firmly of the opinion that the basics of good greenkeeping are as relevant today as they have ever been, so what has changed that makes this such a hard thing to achieve in some cases? Trust me, no two courses are the same and the management at your golf club should be different from the one down the road. Of course the basics never change but they do have to be fine tuned to suit your own land mass. I am concerned there are those who wish to criticise the efforts of well meaning members of our Association and

have an answer to all the ills and, of course, a remedy for a better way forward. They do so with no real interest other than their own and I have seen a groundswell of opinions that have harmed the well being of the incumbent greenkeeper and the course, but also employ the tactic of financial savings as the buzzword for their very existence.

Well, take note, I for one have an interest in the well being of you all at heart and to those that think otherwise. I'm not that old and will be around for a wee while yet and if I have achieved nothing more this year then I have had my eyes opened to bad practice and the dumbing down of the art of greenkeeping. Make no mistake I am buoyed to challenge the sometimes unethical, practices that needs weeding out of this industry.

We have within our ranks some very special people from whom I am sure we could all take great lessons. I know this to be true because I have met many of them. This year my life has been enriched beyond my wildest dreams and, frankly, I don't think I have met a bad greenkeeper on my travels. You are an amazing lot with an ability to share your experiences and help others around achieve bigger and greater things. This, mixed with a dusting of greenkeeping passion and sprinkled with a determination to succeed, means we all have an assured way forward so I urge you to consider this - rub shoulders with as many other greenkeepers as you can. I have been greedy this year and have received all the benefits of doing just that. I have had a ball and for that I thank you all for the opportunity. It has been a life changing experience that I will never forget. If we can master the art of people then we will truly become masters of the art of greenkeeping.

So it's a worn out Chairman that passes on the mantel to Kenny Mackay and if he enjoys the experience as much as I have he will have a wonderful year. I am looking forward to a quieter life and seeing more of the kids, I have missed them like crazy at times this year and I plan to make up for lost time. I will also remember all those special people that have made my term as Chairman a truly amazing experience.



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