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WIDNES GOLF CLUB

Founded in 1924



Applications are invited for the position of

HEAD GREENKEEPER

Widnes Golf Club is an 18 Hole mature parkland golf course, with a strong Membership and many repeat visitors year on year.

Applicants should possess the following attributes:

- Recognised greenkeeping/agronomy qualifications (min NVQ Level 3 or equivalent). PA1, PA2 & PA6 Spraying Certificates.
- Deliver high standards of course presentation.
- Take responsibility for 18 holes.
- Motivate and manage greenkeeping team.
- Be conversant with modern equipment and technology.
- Knowledge of Health & Safety Regulations and other relevant legislation, including Risk Assessments.
- A proven ability to prepare work programmes and meet deadlines.

This is a great opportunity for a committed, hands on, enthusiastic, motivated and hardworking Greenkeeper to lead and manage a dedicated team to further develop and maintain the golf course.

Salary negotiable

**Applications in writing with full C.V. by
Friday 27th February 2009 to**

Miss N J Farrington
The Secretary
Widnes Golf Club

Highfield Road, Widnes, WA8 7DT



West Kent Golf Club

HEAD GREENKEEPER

West Kent Golf Club is situated on the North Downs, close to Downe village an is an 18 hole woodland par 71 course. The Club has some 650 Members and has been established since 1916.

Our current Head Greenkeeper will be retiring in September 2009 after 37 years of loyal service to the Club.

Reporting to The Club Secretary the successful candidate will need to have the following:-

- Proven experience of providing a quality Golf Course.
- Possess all relevant qualifications and knowledge of Turf Management, Drainage and Irrigation.
- Experience of implementing and working to a budget and management plan.
- Working knowledge of Health & Safety and Environmental Legislation.
- The ability to lead and motivate five staff.
- A sound understanding of the needs and interests of Club Members and visitors

Accommodation is available as part of an attractive remuneration package.

Please apply in writing by the 16th March 2009 including a full C.V. and stating present salary:-

The Secretary, West Kent Golf Club, Downe, Kent, BR6 7LD.

RECRUITMENT

UPMINSTER GOLF CLUB

EXPERIENCED GREENKEEPER

A vacancy exists for a Greenkeeper.

The candidate will have a minimum of 2 years experience, be hard working and reliable.

Qualified to NVQ level 2 an advantage as would be a PA1 PA2 or PA6 qualification.

A working knowledge of Health & Safety at a Golf Club would also be of advantage.

Please apply in writing with a full CV to:

Doug Fernie, Course Manager, Upminster Golf Club,
114 Hall Lane, Upminster, Essex RM14 1AU



COSBY GOLF CLUB

Leicestershire

Invites applications for the position of

COURSE MANAGER



Cosby is a Private Members Club founded in 1895.

The 18-hole course is on mature parkland and the Club hopes to develop the current practice area into a driving range and short game area during the year.

The Club is also hosting the Leicestershire & Rutland County Championship in 2009.

The successful candidate will require:

The necessary technical qualifications (minimum HND or equivalent)

- The ability to work alongside, motivate, and lead an established and enthusiastic greenkeeping team
- A comprehensive knowledge of machinery and irrigation systems
- Excellent communication skills, both orally and written
- Sound knowledge of Health & Safety and Environmental legislation
- Experience of implementing and working to a budget and management plan
- A strong desire and ability to continue the development of the course, which in recent years has become one of the most prestigious courses in the East Midlands
- Demonstrate a very high standard of course presentation and a sound understanding of the needs and interests of Members.

Letters of application, accompanied by a full CV and salary expectation to:-

**Mr. C. Jones,
Chairman, Cosby Golf Club, Chapel Lane, Cosby
Leicester. LE9 1RG
Email: secretary@cosbygolfclub.co.uk**



Ferndown Golf Club

Assistant Greenkeeper required must be qualified to NVQ Level 2 Minimum of 3 years experience necessary

Please send a full CV to Head Greenkeeper at :

Ferndown Golf Club, 119 Golf Links Road
Ferndown, Dorset
BH22 8BU

Email :golf@ferndowngolfclub.co.uk,
www.ferndowngolfclub.co.uk

The Bigga Training & Development Manual, sponsored by John Deere, is an invaluable tool for everyone working within the greenkeeping industry.



The BIGGA Training & Development Manual

FREE USE FOR MEMBERS

This online manual provides users with the information they need on recruitment, induction, training and career progression using video clips, written information, downloadable documents and useful web links.

A valuable membership benefit the manual can be accessed via the BIGGA website on the Education, Jobs' and Members' areas. Simply log in using your surname and BIGGA membership number on the Home page.

Designed around a theme of 18 holes users can gain access to training records, job specifications, job descriptions, sample contracts of employment, appraisal forms and details of continuing development.

How to access the BIGGA Training & Development Manual

1. Go to the BIGGA website www.bigga.org.uk
2. Click on the Members area, the Jobs page or the Education page and click on the BIGGA Training Manual link.
3. Enter your login details and select the BIGGA Training & Development Manual from the left hand menu.
4. The Training Manual will load and the user can click on Enter the Site to view a welcome video or can select 1-9 or 10-18 on the top menu bar.
5. You can progress through the manual hole by hole or go straight to the hole you wish to view. You can also skip to holes 10-18.
6. When you select a hole you will be presented with a window that explains what that hole is about. You can then select from the bottom tabs, video or sub-text (downloadable documents and links).
7. When clicking on a downloadable document it will automatically open in your default word processor. This can then be amended, updated and saved to your computer's hard disk or printed and filed in your personnel files.



Chairman's Column

AN INTRODUCTION...

Twelve month's ago Kenny Mackay introduced me as Vice Chairman and following completion of his year in office as Chairman he handed over the baton at last month's Harrogate Week.

With the support of my club and team I am both honoured and delighted to accept the role as your new Chairman. My position as Golf Courses Manager at The London Golf Club demands the delivery of high standards in a very competitive business environment, including preparing for this year's European Open. I look forward to working with your Board of Management and the BIGGA staff in an equally challenging year ahead, concentrating on finding ways of further developing our Association to the benefit of members.

Kenny's commitment and efforts to promote BIGGA this past year have often taken him away from his family and his every day role at The Belfry. I would like to take this opportunity of thanking him for giving up many hours of his time to meet the needs of this demanding schedule. As Past Chairman, Kenny will continue to sit on the board and I welcome his continuing input during the year ahead to help us in making progress.

I would like to introduce and welcome the new Vice Chairman, Paul Worster, Course Manager at Minchinhampton Golf Club. Paul is well known to many of you and brings with him strong environmental credentials.

We live in a dynamic environment with change happening all around us, constantly demanding our attention. Assessing where we are now and where we are heading in the current climate is something we are all facing. Maximising opportunities requires vision, careful thought and often involves the right timing. As Course Managers we are often asked for the cost of making changes and required to budget for them. How often are you asked what is the cost of doing nothing? Making no improvements and leaving things just as they were or have always been, often also comes at a price.

Embracing change means being flexible, adapting to the demands put upon us and welcoming the chance to shape the future. Remaining optimistic makes it much easier to see the way ahead and reach the goals we aim for. Whether it is business issues at your club or those facing the Association, the coming weeks and months ahead will be an important time for considering the best way forward.

The move to proxy voting at the recent AGM was a very positive change to the constitution and will allow all members the opportunity to vote on future proposals without requiring them to travel to meetings, including any proposals to include groundsman as members.

The ongoing healthy discussions to consider allowing groundsman, managing turf from other sports, the opportunity to join BIGGA is welcome and a subject that was raised at the AGM. Before the advent of NVQ's I studied City and Guilds in Sports Turf Management for which I was required to learn about turf for all sports. No doubt it was realised at the time that there was a considerable overlap between these turf professions and it made both educational and economic sense to combine classes. Along with others from our industry I recently attended an educational seminar at The All England Club Wimbledon and, not for the first time, enjoyed the benefit of listening to Head Groundsman Eddie Seaward give a talk. With fellow greenkeepers I have twice been to Wembley to the old stadium to meet Head Groundsman Steve Tingley and at the new, to learn from Steve Welsh and his experiences. More recently I have developed relations with



Peter chats with exhibitors during the Show

those closely involved with both local and county cricket in Kent to look at and discuss a broad range of subjects including water recycling, turf maintenance, machinery and logistics for large events.

Along with many other greenkeepers I have valued and enjoyed the close ties we have developed with these turf professionals over many years with plenty of experiences to share and learn from. Indeed some of my own colleagues had previously worked on cricket, football and tennis turf surfaces before bringing that broader experience to our team. I firmly believe that by welcoming fellow turf professionals to BIGGA they would strengthen our education programmes, learning opportunities, our association and their inclusion would bring benefits to all our members.

Before signing off I have to return to the subject of Harrogate Week where the highlight of the week for me was listening to George Brown, speaking after receiving his Lifetime Achievement Award. His recollection of push biking to work and push mowing early in his career perfectly illustrated the sweeping changes in technology and expectations over more than 50 years. His modest manner, dry sense of humour and words of wisdom have won him much respect and many friends in the industry. Many congratulations George.

Our industry enjoys something unique that is often described as a family atmosphere and this is always very much in evidence during Harrogate week, with many opportunities to catch up with colleagues and friends. Make an effort to get along and meet new faces this year at seminars and golf events in your part of the country - take advantage of the network of people who are interested to hear about your club and what you are doing on your course.

I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible during the year and hope we can all enjoy some much needed summer sunshine this season.

Your next issue of GI will be with you by March 8
Visit our website for a full archive of BIGGA magazine issues at www.bigga.co.uk

Primo MAXX cuts the time and cost of turf management

In Brief

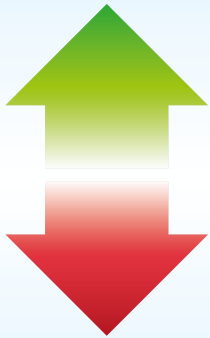
- Primo MAXX application will reduce the time and money spent on mowing turf on fairways and sports grounds – potentially saving over £4250 a year
- Primo MAXX significantly reduces the volume of clippings removed, typically by up to 50%
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- Improved root structure means better drought tolerance and greater stress resistance



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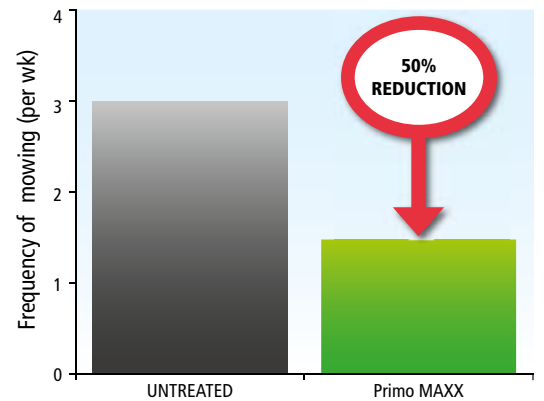
MOWER COSTS
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With the cost of running a mower calculated at over £10 an hour, Primo MAXX could save over £4250 a year in lower fuel, maintenance and repair bills – along with the opportunity to cut your carbon footprint with reduced fuel use.

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Independent user trials with Primo MAXX applications on fairways, conducted by STRI, identified turf managers could typically reduce the frequency of mowing by 50%, whilst still enhancing playing conditions.

Results were consistent under a range of fairway management regimes, often requiring just one cut per week to maintain high quality – with reduced evidence of clippings left on the surface. Boxed off clippings were reduced by up to 65% (below).



Source: Observational reports of turf managers undertaking Primo MAXX fairway trials

