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## Here's a selection...



Wiedenmann Finishing Mower -£5,990 + VAT 16ft Triplex Finishing Mower As New

#### Trilo SU40 vacuum unit £2,500

Near new Trilo vacuum unit. Attached to a rigid trailor

11hp honda engine Excellent condition

### Kuhn BKE250 -

**£3,000 + VAT** 2.5m Flail Mower Fixed Headstock NEW

#### Imants Shockwave 1.55mtr - ex demo -£8950 + VAT

Ex demo Shockwave 1.5mtr . Used for our own demos / shows. **Verti Drain 205 150 -£4950 + VAT** Very clean Had very little use.

#### John Deere 2653a Triple Mower £6,950 + VAT 8 blade floating head

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#### Raycam - Trunkpump -Water removal system -£2,350 + vat

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# Recruitment

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#### Reporting:

Reporting to the General Manager

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#### **Responsibility:**

· Motivate a team of Technical Support through performance coaching, career planning.

· Improve productivity by highlighting deficiencies and recommending change in tools, training, processes, reporting, and employee engagement.

#### **Requirement:**

Manage projects which include preparation for large tournaments.
 A list of Turfcare machines being worked on, should be supplied, so we know the extent of the person's technical knowledge.

Must have a good understanding of "services business" in a high tech environment, from a supplier, integrator or operator's point of view.

Demonstrate Leadership abilities and be achievement oriented. Excellent analytical and problem solving skills, combined with the

- ability to provide quick resolution to problems.
  Strong verbal and written communication skills are mandatory.
  Must be customer service orientated and believe in teamwork, col-
- laboration, adaptability and Initiative.
- · Experience in coaching and staff development is mandatory.
- · A valid driver's license is necessary to allow the obtaining of a driving licence through the UAE application process.

#### Package:

Tax free income would suit the candidate wishing overseas experience. Normal expats benefits included in package.

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT KIRSTIN BLACK ON 01347 833 832 OR EMAIL kirstin@bigga.co.uk I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to assist at the Open. I had an absolutely brilliant time, and have memories for life! I will definitely be applying for 2011 at St Georges.

Thank you again. Ashlev Lock

I'd just like to thank BIGGA for a great week at The Open. It was very well organised and coordinated. It was great to meet up with old friends and make new ones, and as usual the camaraderie and atmosphere was great. The whole team looked great and conducted themselves in a professional manner and were a credit to BIGGA and greenkeeping.

Thanks for the chance to be there.

Tony Gooch Great Torrington Golf Club

I would just like to say how super The Open week was. As it was my first time at an Open event I was unsure what to expect, though this did make everything that little bit more special Everyone involved made everyone so so welcome and it was great to see!

The way everything was so well organised was FANTASTIC, even more so when plans needed to adjusted at such short notice on the Friday night.

I'm really pleased that we were with such a great group. I sure we would all agree, greenkeepers are pretty great guys.

Again thank you for a fabulous week that not even the weather could ruin!

Adam Matthews Minchinhampton Golf Club

#### **Many Thanks!**

On behalf of everyone at St Andrews Links, could I use Greenkeeper International to say a massive thank you to so many people who helped make the recent Open Championship the success it was. Faced with the extremes of weather during the week, we constantly had to review our plans and it was very reassuring that BIGGA were able to provide 20 people at short notice to come and help us divot fill the fairways at the ungodly hour of 4.30am on the Saturday morning. They were there prompt and smiling even though they hadn't had any breakfast and did a tremendous job working alongside some of our own crew. Indeed, all the BIGGA volunteers did a great job of looking after the bunkers through the golf.

I would also like to thank once again, all of our own staff and especially the seven who travelled and stayed for the week to work as volunteers. Also, the STRI team who delivered great support to us with their measuring and data collection, not only during the week but right from the 6th of July. Ably led by Richard Windows and Christian Spring, their help was invaluable and my thanks go to all of the STRI people who visited through the week.

I'd also like to thank Toro for providing the staff uniforms for the tournament and Aquatrols, Farmura, Richard Aitkens, Syngenta, and Barenbrug for providing the food to keep us all going.

Finally, I would like to thank all those people who called, emailed or sent text messages to both myself and Gordon Moir. We had literally 100's of messages of support, congratulations or just saying how great the course looked. We have tried/will try to respond to all of you but please accept our apologies if you are missed out. Your messages reflected the hard work everyone here put in to holding such a successful event, not just the two of us,

Gordon McKie Course Manager Old Course

#### **QUICK 'NINE HOLE' QUIZ ANSWERS:**

- 1. Pebble Beach
- Valderrama
- 4.
- Royal Birkdale Loch Lomond Augusta National
- Augus...
   The Belfry
   Colligion Manor
- Pinehurst

intheshed answers

#### CROSSWORD

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#### MONSTER SUDOKO

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# Soapbox

Bob Taylor, Head of Ecology & Environment at STRI, takes to the Soapbox and looks back over this evolving industry

When Scott MacCallum asked me to contribute to the Soapbox a slight apprehensive feeling came over me. Well it would.

I am not, as everyone knows, a person who is given to ranting on different issues that affect our industry but then, given the cold light of day I probably am.

In fact, isn't that all that I have been doing for the last 20 years, remaining defiant when speaking out for the plight of the environment within golf.

Over the years I have pushed golf clubs to take stock of the environment in which they play and manage it for both golf and for wildlife.

I have also used legislation as a driver to generate awareness and encourage motivation, to ensure that best practices are adopted and adhered to. This is not a bad thing, far from it.

Collectively as an industry we have taken on a level of responsibility towards the environment that is unsurpassed.

Which other industries can boast the reclamation of 23 hectares of heathland, the reinstatement of over 1127 linear metres of hedgerow, the expansion of our grassland resource and all this arising from projects like the EGU Ecological Advisory Service.

STRI along with organisations like The Golf Environment Organisation, BIGGA, The R&A and Home Unions have created a wealth of literature geared towards managing the environment, but yet it seems strange to me that there are still many golf clubs out there that give little attention to their environmental responsibilities and are still dragging their feet and this can have ramifications for others.

Twenty years ago ecology was a buzzword, rather like sustainability is today, the main difference is perhaps that ecology is a term specifically related to species and the places in which they live, sustainability brings social and economic factors into the equation, changing our approach to golf course management in managing as a commercial modern business.

Even 20 years on I still regularly hear the old chestnut that this is a golf course and not a nature reserve, the reality is, that while a nature reserve can be specifically set up for wildlife, golf clubs have another overriding function ie. that of golf.

This is in fact the reason why so many areas throughout the country are being given special protected status by way of the Site of Special Scientific Interest designation (SSSI). There is clearly no way that all golf courses could be given elevated scientific status but that does not mean that they do not contribute positively to wildlife and wildlife conservation. Many are indeed important staging posts for wildlife passing through.

They provide linkage with other important sites and they do protect some of our rarest and most vulnerable wildlife.

Individual golf clubs are functioning as individual business units, their main focus is income generation through visitor and member retention.

It always strikes me as odd that golf clubs pour all their resources into their greens, giving them ultimate priority and while this is clearly necessary very little resource is given to the environment in which they sit.

How many players would return again and again to play the course if it were not for the contribution of the environment and the pleasure gained from it. this would never be the case unless some underlying factor such as poor performance in the past, pollution etc lies at the heart of the matter.

We must stop thinking that ecological management is for richer golf clubs, which probably make up less than 10% of the 3,300 golf clubs now established throughout the UK.

Just think of the contribution that the remaining 90% can have on protecting and conserving our nations wildlife.

It was Steve Oultram from Wilmslow Golf Club who once said:

"I like to think that I am managing this golf course so that my children and grandchildren can still benefit from the wildlife that I at Wilmslow have come to enjoy."

That perhaps in a nutshell sums it up, the wildlife that we all take for granted will not be there in the future unless we as custodians of a very special and unique landscape manage in a way that will conserve it for present and future generations.

# Protect our wildlife

Environment gives beauty to the game, it adds interest, challenge, history, nature and above all a real feeling of wellbeing.

The more time I spend in Europe, particularly within the Scandinavia, the more I realise that potential visitors are seeking golf clubs with good social, environmental and ethical performance.

Golf Clubs providing this are thus better placed to attract and retain visitor numbers who share these values.

The more we do for the environment, the easier it will be when it comes to seeking planning permission for developmental change.

A golf club with a good track record, compared with direct competitors may gain advantage through public approval and acceptance.

Bear in mind however that good performance needs to be balanced with disclosure of performance, good and bad, hence the need for auditing, record keeping and periodic review.

I still visit golf clubs that remain worried that if they highlight their ecological interests they may be stopped from implementing traditional management practices,



Bob Taylor, Head of Ecology & Environment at STRI

Bob Taylor

The views expressed within On The Soapbox are not necessarily those of Greenkeeper International

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....Ryegrass

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