GI NEWSDESK

Nominations Open for the Edwin Budding Award

The International Golf Course Equipment Managers Association is now be accepting nominations for the fourth annual Edwin Budding Award.

The Award recognises those who have made significant contributions to the golf course equipment industry, including those who have excelled in the business, history, education, design, engineering and maintenance of golf course equipment.

Nominations should be sent to nominations@igcema. org. and the deadline for nominations is November 26.

The winner will be presented the award in Orlando, Florida, USA during the Golf Industry Show.



After 38 years with SISIS, UK Sales Manager, Keith Vertigan, has retired.

Keith started with SISIS as Area Representative for the North West, later moving to Scotland as Manager of SISIS Scotland.

After a very successful few years there he returned to Macclesfield to become UK Sales Manager.

Keith was presented with vouchers so that he can add to his very extensive range of fishing equipment.

He is now hoping to spend more time relaxing at the side of a river – and hopefully catching some fish!!

SISIS new sales team is Andrew Roberts as UK Sales Manager, supported by Andrew Walker as Field Sales Manager and Douglas Boa as Sales Office Manager.

GI

NEWSDESK

Email your news items and press releases to The Editor, Scott MacCallum, at scott@bigga.co.uk





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Sutton Green Golf Club, is one of the first clubs in the area to take delivery of the hybrid greens mower from Jacobsen, the Eclipse 322

The diesel-electric hybrid mower was delivered recently by local Ransomes Jacobsen dealer, TH White Ltd of Reading.

Nathan Kim Sing is Head Greenkeeper at the club and has a team of four to help maintain the course. "About 18 months ago we received a complaint from a neighbour in a nearby house close to one of our greens about noise from early morning mowing.

We took a reasonable approach and changed our greens mowing regime, but it is inconvenient for us as we have many early golfers, especially at weekends, and preparing the greens in that part of the course is an issue for us," he said.

Pay Recommendations

The Committee for Golf Club Salaries (CGCS) feels that it would be inappropriate to recommend any form of increase for 2011 to the salary scales currently in place. In reaching its decision the Committee has taken into account the general economic climate and the impact that this has had on golf clubs throughout the UK.

The CGCS recommends rates of pay as guidelines for Clubs to follow, but is mindful that at all times they remain a matter for negotiation between the individual employer and employee. The CGCS further considers that employers should make an appropriate pay award to recognise any substantial change in responsibility, qualifications or duties carried out by their employees as well as reflecting any changes to legislation governing rates of pay. Performance issues are also an important and relevant criteria in salary negotiation.

The CGCS wishes to draw to the attention of golf clubs the impending changes in pension legislation that will come into force with effect from 2012. From this date both employers and employees may have a mandatory obligation to contribute into a Personal Pension Plan or the Government's National Employment Savings Trust (NEST). Employers should begin to look into how they will be affected and what will need to be put in place in order to comply with the legislation.



Grass Roots Technology

Dean Wood Golf Club has become the first UK course where staff across all three vocational levels are completing their qualifications through the use of E-portfolio technology.

Course Manager, Chris Halkerd has not only embraced his own professional development by completing Myerscough College's NVQ level 4 Sportsturf pilot, a blended learning programme utilising ILM training mixed with innovative assessment methods and short bite sized training certificates, but has also been supporting his staff through their level 2 and 3 apprenticeship programmes using the same methodology.

"The e-portfolio sports-turf qualifications Myerscough provided for me and my staff proved time efficient, well constructed and industry specific," said Chris.

"The new way of completing work based qualifications has allowed me to develop my team of staff which in-turn has benefited the quality and standards at Dean Wood." "The work-based team at Myerscough College have been operating the e-portfolio system over the last three years.

"Training and support is tailored to each employer and qualification and the Level 4 programme is a best practice example of this utilising ILM tuition and webconferencing technology to support learning."

Paul McGrail, Work-based Quality Manager, said:

"The use of this assessment methodology is now fully embedded in supporting the college's national delivery model for sports turf with a plan to develop international delivery and embrace other landbased schemes."

David Golding, the GTC Education Director, added:

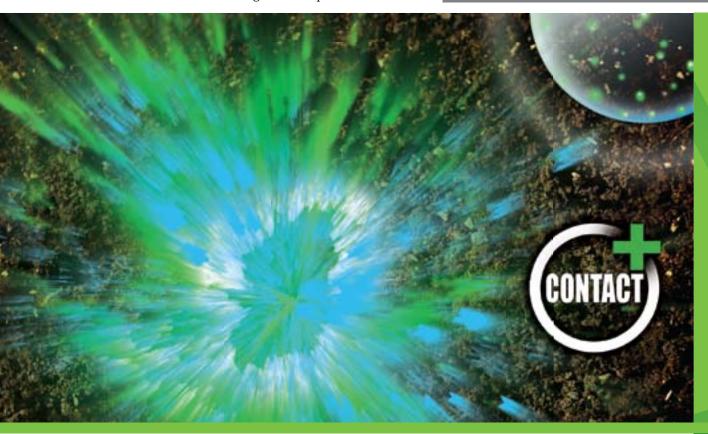
"This innovative delivery option for greenkeeping students is in line with the use of modern technology. The fact that all levels of staff at Dean Wood have enjoyed the e-portfolio experience will I am sure encourage more greenkeepers to gain formal qualifications."



Reward for Ronnie

Liberton Course Manager Ronnie McCrindle received a plaque from Chairman, Stewart Crawford, on behalf of the East Section at the Autumn Outing to the club., to recognise 40 years at the club.

"Ronnie will be retiring in two years time we wish him all the best in his retirement when it comes round. I think he deserves it," said Stewart





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Delegates at the recent Barenbrug and STRI Druids Glen Golf Resort open day have given glowing feedback on the event, which revealed the preliminary findings of a new trial taking place at the County Wicklow course.

Over 40 Superintendents from across Ireland attended the day to gain an insight into the Golf Green Differential Input Trial. Established in partnership with STRI, the trial is the first of its kind in Ireland and aims to determine

the influence of both standard and relaxed input maintenance regimes on grass species for golf greens.

Following a welcoming speech from Druid Glen's course Superintendent, John O'Sullivan, on why the 18-hole championship course decided to participate in the trial, Barenbrug's Research and Development Manager, Jayne Leyland, gave a presentation on the company's global breeding programme, before a series of

other informative presentations including Dr Ruth Mann who updated delegates on turfgrass protection and the methods and value of thatch reduction for overseeding and interseeding; Dr Ian McClements who spoke about the STRI Programme and Neil Pettican, Regional Sales Manager for Barenbrug, in Ireland, After lunch Graden's John Fitzpatrick, illustrated how easy it is to implement a species exchange programme with the Graden.



IAN LAVELLE

SISIS has appointed lan Lavelle as its Area Manager for Cumbria, Northumberland, **Durham, Cleveland** and Yorkshire.

lan will be well known to many customers in the area as he has been a greenkeeper since leaving school 32 years ago.

lan is married to Anne. He enjoys walking, snow boarding and water skiing. He also enjoys acting and writing plays and pantomimes.

GOLD FOR OULTON HALL

The Estate's team at De Vere Oulton Hall is celebrating after picking up two top horticultural Gold awards in the space of just one week. These latest awards bring the hotel's overall haul to nine consecutive gold medals for its gardens over the last three

After picking up a Gold Rose Award at Yorkshire in Bloom the team were further delighted to be awarded with another Gold in the Best Hotel City Wide category at Leed's in Bloom's Business in Bloom Competition.

The judge's were particularly impressed with the overall standard of bedding displays



and permanent planting at De Vere Oulton Hall, which have been maintained to the highest standard despite it being a very difficult and dry year.

Jim Brown, Go<u>lf Course</u> Estate and Property Manager, said: "These awards are a true testament to the hard work and dedication of all estates team but especially our fantastic gardeners at the hotel. I would like to thank them for their continued commitment and passion towards the upkeep, maintenance and presentation of our beautiful gardens which give pleasure to so many."

Harrogate Week 2011

The Scottish Region is offering the following package for the Holiday Inn, Harrogate. The accommodation is from Monday 17 January. Three nights, Bed & Breakfast in en-suite rooms on 17th, 18th and 19th January, 2011. Cost will be £165.

To obtain a booking form for the accommodation contact the Regional Administrator, Peter J.Boyd on; 0141 616 3440/07776242120 or email; pj.boyd@ btinternet.com

Peter J. Boyd Regional Administrator



Chairman's Word

BIGGA Chairman Paul Worster looks at how we can respond to career challenges in the recession

Best wishes from us all, John

May I acknowledge the efforts of outgoing BIGGA CEO - John Pemberton. As our CEO since 2004, John has helped BIGGA develop into what it is today. John is wished well by all.

I recently met some terrific guys at The Berkshire for the National Championship, sponsored by Kubota and Charterhouse. Decent, grass-roots greenkeepers with whom we all identify.

Greenkeepers with a natural aptitude for their work, and who look forward to a successful career with opportunities for progression and job security.

Has advancement suddenly become more difficult?

In recent times has job advancement become more difficult, and job security become a thing of the past?

Redundancies, cost saving measures and job sharing are becoming more commonplace in the golf sector, and Greens Teams have to do more with less

Normal levels of movement within greenkeeping have been reduced. Will this potentially stifle careers? Will greenkeepers get into a rut? How then to break the cycle?

A number I spoke to had clear ideas on how to progress.

- They were beginning to attend local BIGGA Section events
- They were beginning to volunteer for the association
- They were beginning to get themselves noticed.

My advice to anyone in a situation of insecurity and stagnation - take every possible development opportunity, and get yourself out and about.

Your competitors for good jobs are doing just that!

If advancement opportunities are limited then get trained and make your career aspirations known to others so that when a vacancy does occur you are among the best qualified.

Your current situation does not have to be a cul-de-sac - it can be a two-way street for you.

You can attend this FREE seminar

At Harrogate Week in January BIGGA is running an excellent Development Seminar for Assistant Greenkeepers. You can attend this FREE seminar but you will need to enroll in advance.

There will be a Volunteers Workshop to help you to become a much valued volunteer. Again it is a FREE seminar but you will need to enroll in advance. BIGGA is the world's largest membership organisation for greenkeepers at all levels. If you attend, then BIGGA will be there for you -whatever your current position in the greenkeeping profession.

Greenkeepers are the prime focus of the Association

By the time this article is published, there will be some changes to the way that BIGGA does things. The BIGGA Board has been working hard to ensure that greenkeepers are the prime focus of the Association's efforts.

BIGGA Sub-Committees have been converted into Advisory Groups, each one working with a Volunteer Board Director, who through the Board and CEO supports the relevant BIGGA Head of Department. This approach empowers the Association's employees while at the same time making them more accountable to your Board.

In addition, Past Chairmen of the Association have been invited to become special advisors to the Board.

Do Greenkeepers need to broaden their horizons?

Absolutely! If we want a good career and job security we will always need to look outwards.

BIGGA intends to reach out into the wider industry and forge much closer links with the likes of the IOG, the GTC, the PGA, the GCMA, the Golf Unions and the R&A to form an alliance that will have much more

lease note that any sember can contact the alktopaul@hotmail.co.uk

Finally, this column would not be complete without me paying tribute to the efforts of the greens teams helping out at the Ryder Cup at Celtic Manor.

You do not need me to describe the scene inside the Greenkeeper Facility. Incessant rain drumming on the roof and a constant and intense pressure to get the event played. What a moment for UK Greenkeeping!

Cometh the hour - Cometh the man (Jim McKenzie - Superintendent). Cometh the Support Team $also-the\,effort\,needed\,was\,immense$ and exhausting.

For me it brought to mind lines from the famous poem - 'IF' - by Rudyard Kipling: (which I actually have pinned on my office wall)

"If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster, and treat those two imposters just the same...."

Could this be a watershed moment for UK Greenkeeping?

If we apply Kipling's sentiment to conditions at the Ryder Cup: What if the weather had not been so bad? The greens team would not have been under quite the same spotlight.

Arguably, because of the conditions, the greenkeeping team turned what might have been complete disaster, into shining triumph. The fact that they responded so completely and comprehensively will be forever remembered by those who were there that week and those who watched it on TV around the world.

Could this be a watershed moment for UK Greenkeeping? I certainly think so. Well done to everyone involved and thanks from all the profession.

The inspirational poem ends:

"If you can fill the unforgiving minute, with sixty seconds worth of distance run, yours is the earth and everything that's in it, and, which is more; you'll be a man-my son"

May I add a personal word - I hope that at this time of uncertainty we greenkeepers will never give up never back off - and never betray our principles.



Greenkeepers **Training Committee**



David Golding, Education Director, with a monthly update from the GTC

As the dust settles on the European Ryder Cup team's win at Celtic Manor, please excuse the pun, those of us working within greenkeeping would never have doubted Jim McKenzie and his team's skills and ability to present the course to the standards that had been planned for months and years.

However, out of very adverse weather the spotlight well and truly fell on greenkeepers far more than anybody could have dreamed of!

Jim, himself a great supporter of greenkeeper training, quite rightly has had so much praise heaped on him and his tremendous team of in-house greenkeepers and the many volunteers for their unbelievable efforts and while extreme, it did help raise the profile of greenkeeping with Sky, BBC and the wider media all homing in on the work of greenkeepers.

It was also a pleasure to hear the First Minister of Wales and Colin Montgomerie pay tribute to Jim and his "ground staff" and greenkeepers for their work during the closing ceremony.

I was pleased to accept an invitation from the PGA to attend the Opening Ceremony and stand alongside the greenkeepers during a ceremony organised with military precision by the European Ryder Cup Committee.

What really struck me was how much closer the various factions of golf have become in recent years and maybe, just finally, greenkeeping and greenkeepers have at last earned the respect they have strived for over many many years.

Unsung heroes suddenly are now being recognised as skilled knowledgeable professional members of any golf club management team and whether is it Celtic Manor or the little 9-hole golf course with one greenkeeper I believe the profession is slowly but surely receiving the respect it truly deserves.

A watershed you might say!

I would like to think that some of this recognition is down to the opportunities now available for greenkeeper education and training but there are some very informal methods of communications, which, I believe are worth considering.

All the following I know have been introduced to raise the awareness of the role of the greenkeeper and have improved the status of the Course Manager and his/her staff at the same time "educated" the golfer.

- An evening with the Course Manager often with a supporting cast of Green Convenor/ Chairman of Green and advisor or
- A Green Party an evening when the clubs equipment and machinery is displayed for the members to view their investments and to question the Course Manager on which machine or piece of equipment does what on the golf course.

This I remember as being a huge breakthrough for Ed McCabe, Course Manager at Brockenhurst Manor Golf Club, and his great ally at the club, Arthur King, and was subsequently promoted by the English Golf Unions at a series of workshops along with the benefits of a Course Policy Document.

• Since those halcyon days technology has moved on not just in modern golf course machinery but the internet with many clubs now having their own websites.

I am sure many Course Managers have their own ways of handling members questions and answers however recently I was directed to the Royal Ashdown Golf Club's website where Chris Mitchell the Course Manager maintains a feature on; Course Manager -Frequently asked questions.

It is well worth a visit to see how Chris keeps his members updated on the work being done or about to be carried out on the course.

The following link will take you there and is provided with the kind permission of the club and Chris.

In Brief

David looks at the various ways Course Managers have adopted to raise eness to golfers on the

The GTC is funded by:













Contact Details

David Golding GTC Education Director

01347 838640 david@the-atc.co.uk

GTC Aldwark Manor Near York YO61 1UF

www.the-gtc.co.uk

http://www.royalashdown. co.uk/html/about-us/coursemanagers-faqs

Clubs, both private and proprietary, now produce Newsletters and these often feature a Course News section written by the Course Manager.

· Monthly or quarterly course reports to management seem very much part of a Course Managers job role and these or a summary appear on club notice boards hopefully for members and visitors to read.

Note: To be sure members read a notice always make a spelling mistake, they are sure to tell you! This is at least a sign they have

All of the above thoughts and ideas are designed to assist with the education of the golfer by the Course Manager being very proactive in explaining the work of the greenkeeping staff and how it all is tailored to meet the policies for the course as agreed by the employers.

It is also appreciated, that for some, report writing and making presentations is not one of their natural skills for some Course Managers but with the help of staff within the GTC Quality Assured Centres and Training Providers, help is at hand.

BELOW: Scenes from the Ryder Cup





Learning & Development

Sami Collins, Head of Learning & Development, with an update on education issues

With the smell of bonfires and fireworks in the air, we find ourselves in November. Time seems to be moving faster and faster these days, the next thing you know it will be Christmas and that only means one thing... Harrogate Week is just around the corner!



Continue to Learn at Harrogate Week 2011

Alongside the Workshops and the Turf Managers' Conference that have already been featured in this column, we will be offering an extensive programme of Seminars. Presented by an array of speakers on a wide variety of subjects there is sure to be something that whets vour appetite.

Featured sessions:

STRI – Part of the Winning Team at the World Cup

Ryder Cup Cymru

Preparing the Old Course for the 2010 Open Championship

The West Course at Wentworth Course Manager to Club Manager - The Challenges

Integrated Management of Dollar Spot

Demystification of Synthetic Sports Surfaces

Working on Your Own at a 9 Hole

For a full list of seminars visit www.harrogateweek.org.uk/education/seminars.

Remember - all of the Seminars are FREE and are available on a first come, first serve basis. With this in mind, ensure that you are at the Queen's Suite in plenty of time to secure your seat.



New Field Guide Launched

The On Course Field Guide to the Legislation of Protected Habitats and Species, written by Bob Taylor, Head of Ecology and Environment at STRI, has been launched.

The field guide is now available to Members, free of charge by contacting the L&D Department on 01347 833800 (option 3) or by emailing rachael@bigga.co.uk with your name and membership number.

The field guide will also be available to download via the Members Area of the BIGGA website.

The production of this guide has been made possible by the continued support of Gold and Silver Key contributors to the Learning and Development Fund.

Events Calendar

Have you visited the Events page

Displaying all of the events that are going on around the country (that we've been advised of) this feature is a useful tool to use when planning your diary.

search facility. Clicking on the event



lopment courses. ing also helps support inars, workshops, ses, the lending library,

ny young greenkeepers e their career ogression to the sistance they've had om the Learning and evelopment Fund. An ual number of established enkeepers have also en able to access the fund to continue their professional development thanks to the donations of

name gives you further information about the event including how many CPD credits will be awarded for attendance (if eligible).

If you have events coming up in your Section that are not listed, send us the information and we'll update the calendar. As Aleksandr the meerkat would say 'Simples!'.

Send your event information to sami@bigga.co.uk.



We have added four new books to the BIGGA Library:

Sustainable Golf Courses - A Guide to Environmental Stewardship - Ronald G Dodson

Turfgrass Biology, Genetics and Breeding - Michael D Calser & Ronny R Duncan

Turf Maintenance Facility Design and Management - John Piersol, Harry V Smith

Managing Wetlands on Golf Courses - Gary Libby, Donald F Harker, Kay Harker

Higher Education Scholarships



Supported by Ransomes Jacobsen

The most recent scholarship has been awarded to:

Graeme Latto - SVQ Level 4 in Management

Contact Details

of the BIGGA website?

You can browse the calendar by month, by host or by using the

01347 833800 (option 3) www.bigga.org.uk

Rachael Duffy L&D Administrator rachael@bigga.co.uk

sami@bigga.co.uk

Thank you to our Golden and Silver Key Sponsors

































INDUSTRY UPDATE

The latest turf industry news from around the globe



One of the UK's emerging sporting venues is predicting a significantly more streamlined and cost-effective maintenance regime after taking delivery of new John Deere equipment.

The Rose Bowl in Southampton, home of Hampshire Cricket, has agreed a five-year preferred supplier deal with John Deere at the start of the year, which will enable The Rose Bowl to update its machinery fleet as it now moves towards gaining Test Match status in 2011, and complete a new 18-hole golf course over the next three years.

"We wanted a deal that would suit the dual needs of the club, both for the cricket and the growing golf requirement," said Grounds Manager Nigel Gray.

"The preferred supplier deal means that we can augment our current fleet with the latest

machines, giving us vital flexibility as the turf maintenance aspect here continues to grow."

Latest machines to be delivered are an 8800 TerrainCut rotary mower and an 8700 PrecisionCut fairway mower, supplied by local dealer New Forest Farm Machinery.

The 8700 is shared with the parkland golf course next door, where newly appointed Course Manager, Julian Covey, and assistants Ian Reeves and Joe Weston also use the 8800 on the semi-rough.

Under the golf club's membership requirements, the aim is to have at least nine holes always fully operational, so the coming years will require a fine balancing act between new holes being constructed and coming into play and existing holes being decommissioned.

DEALERS REVITALISED BY INSPIRATIONAL TALK

The Etesia dealer day, featured above-right, also provided the ideal opportunity to revitalise dealers' thoughts in the current uncertain economic climate with a presentation from Richard Denny - Business Growth Specialist and Inspirational Business Speaker.

"In today's challenging market place and climate, we need to be more pro-active if we are going to win more business", commented Richard.

"We have all been here before. This is life. To win we have to have product knowledge and skills, but above all else we need the right attitude. Without this we can never hope to succeed. We can achieve anything in life if we really want to and selling today is all about relationships and getting on with people. People buy people and modern day selling is about asking the right questions and not talking about yourself."



An Etesia dealer day held at the company's new premises in Shenington, Oxfordshire, brought together over 50 dealers to discuss such topics as the company move, the current economic climate, dealer development, training on the new Pellenc lithium battery powered range of products, and how to increase sales and enhance communication across the group.

The day provided the ideal opportunity to promote the advances and innovative technology from the company with the launch of a new electric Bahia MEE, the world's first rotary mower with integrated collector to be powered by electricity, and which will be available to buy in 2011.

Following a hog roast lunch the guests were split into four groups which then toured the new facilities including separate training centres for Pellenc and Etesia machines.

The dealer day was a great success and followed a successful press day we held the previous day", commented Les Malin, Etesia UK's GM.

Photograph shows Richard Denny (Centre) with Patrick Vives (Left) and Les Malin (Right) of Etesia gave a truly mesmerizing presentation to dealers on selling in challenging



Castle Stuart Golf Links, in Inverness, is using a New Holland Boomer 3050 compact tractor to help shape the future of golf in the Highlands of Scotland.

Supplied by Elgin-based New Holland Groundcare dealer Ravenhill, the four wheel drive (4WD) Boomer 3050 is one of the first to enter operation in the UK featuring continuously variable transmission

Chris Haspell, Course Manager at Castle Stuart, which opened in July 2009, said:

"We selected the Boomer as it's the most versatile compact tractor in its class'

All Boomer 3000 series models feature New Holland's factoryfitted cab, with its slim pillars and 360-degree visibility.

Chris added: "In addition to the cab, one of the most popular features on the Boomer is the EasyDrive transmission.

"The greenkeepers absolutely

In addition to working around the current 18-hole championship course, the Boomer's workload is set to increase as Castle Stuart Golf Links progresses with the next stage of its development which will see a nine-hole par three course added later this year.



GREENCAST MOBILE PHONE SCREENS

Greenkeepers, students and agronomists now have the chance to win an iPod Touch, by visiting the GreenCast

Mobile website and completing a short questionnaire.

The GreenCast Mobile initiative, which is currently in a pilot phase, is looking to make some of the information from the website - www. greencast.co.uk - more accessible and easier to use as part of everyday turf management activities. The service is designed to work with iPhone, Blackberry and web-enabled smart phones.

To take part in the project, log on to the GreenCast website and enter a mobile phone number on a designated webpage. An automated text message will be sent direct to the phone, giving a one-click link to the mobile website.

Services already available on the mobile website include a popular quick reference five-day weather summary, detailed illustrated local weather information and disease identification guides, along with links for the products that provide a solution and advice on how to use them.

All participants will be entered into the free prize draw with the chance to win an iPod Touch. The survey can be accessed direct at:

www.zoomerang.com/Survey/WEB22B7WGL6VSA

What's your number?

Our regular and random profile of an industry figure continues with this month's lucky number...

Carol Borthwick of Elmwood College

Name: Carol Borthwick Company: Elmwood College Position: Director of International, Golf and Student Services

How long in the industry? 28 years with Elmwood College.



How did you get into it?

Started in the horticultural Department of Elmwood when greenkeepers where taught the same curriculum as the horti students. Worked with other Colleges to help set up greenkeeper specific qualifications (late 80s.) We ran the first Full time NC Greenkeeping course in 1990.

What other jobs have you done?

I worked in a garden centre, a wholesale plant nursery. At Elmwood I worked at Ladybank GC and Gleneagles, and as a lecturer and then management of the greenkeeping, golf curriculum areas, and the Colleges 18 hole Golf Course Facility.

What do you like about your current job?

Never a dull moment! Working directly in the student support area across the College is great as I feel I can begin to make a contribution to the student experience.

What changes have you seen in the industry?

The main area which has been a real pleasure to see and be involved in is the professionalising of the Greenkeeping Industry. Elmwood was a key driver in the development of the Greenkeeping profession with a range of courses being developed full and part time including the Higher National Diploma in Golf Course Management. I was also part of the original work group that wrote the black book and more recently the development of the European Greenkeeping Education Standards.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

When I get any (!) I try to keep up my golf although over the years that has suffered particularly. I also love walking the dog and doing a bit of running and cycling. I also enjoy some nice meals out with my partner.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years time?

I will be in the latter years of full time employment (recession and public spending review allowing!) Hopefully, however, I will still be of use to the education and/or golf industry in some way!

Who do you consider best friends in the industry?

I have made a huge number of friends across the whole golf industry not only in the UK but also internationally, but it is always the Greenkeeping Industry friendships that I remember most affectionately.

What do you consider to be your lucky number?

Carol has picked Richard Campey

