

excuse for his very slight contribution to a great Sussex win!

All thanks to our hosts and organisers. The course was in great condition, in particular the greens. Once again, a great win for Sussex and let's make sure all these events are supported and kept running. Please remember to send any news to me on my email address or give me a call.

Eric Green
TheGreens837@aol.com
Tel: 01424 - 214600



ESSEX

This last month has seen us hold two education events the first was a Golf Course Design Workshop, with Howard Swan.

Although numbers were somewhat disappointing, those who did attend thoroughly enjoyed the day and the experience. Howard ran us through the history of course design and explained the theory behind such things a bunker placement and water run-off, the position of tees and fairway shaping to get the best out your course.

This was followed up with a hands-on design session, members were asked to bring along details of holes on their own courses that they felt needed improvement. We spent an hour or so drawing up our plans and then Howard went through each design and made alterations and explained the reasons behind each one.

As I have already said we all enjoyed the experience and came away a lot wiser.

Our second event was the first of its type we have run. A Machinery Demonstration day held at Channels Golf Club.

We invited the BIG Three machine manufacturers through their distributors, Ernest Doe & Sons (Ransomes Jacobsen), Toro (Lely UK Ltd) and P.

Tuckwell Ltd (John Deere) to bring along a greens mower, a fairway mower and a utility cutting or other machine, for a demonstration and Q&A day. 61 members attended and were split into three groups, each group was assigned to one of the manufacturers for a one hour period to be shown each of the machines, they were

then broken down into smaller groups to make life easier for the demonstrations, members then moved around each of the machines in turn having hands on instruction whenever they wished.

After their hour was up it was off to the next camp for a repeat of the demonstrations.

Our thanks go to the following for their support.

Ernest Doe & Sons, Matt Wise & Steve Bush, Ransomes Jacobsen, Nigel Church and Demonstrator Phil.

Toro, Larry Pearman, Richard Freeman & Dean Rook.

P.Tuckwell Ltd, Neil Peachey, Rob Galley, Nick Ashman (John Deere) and James Dixon (Gambetti UK).

The Essex Section would also like to thank Channels Golf Club and Course Manager Ray Clark for the use of their facilities, the coffee and bacon roll before and the meal we all enjoyed after the demonstrations.

Our thanks also go to our outgoing Chairman, Mark Stopps for all his hard work in putting this event together, for without his idea in the first place this event would not have taken place.

Around ten members from the Essex section attended the Regional Conference held at Thorpeness Country Club this month.

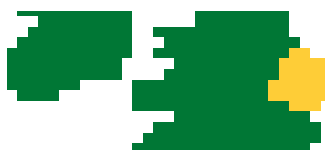
The content was very good with Kate Entwistle as always captivating the audience with a very interesting talk on turf disease issues.

I for one found all the speakers very interesting, Mark Hunt's explanation of the jet stream was a real eye opener, with an interesting overview by course architect Ken Moodie of the re-structuring of Thorpeness Golf Clubs course and the subsequent winning of the Environment award by the STRI's Richard Stuttard, also something to remember.

Thanks to the East Anglian section for putting on such a good show.

The section AGM is nearly with us and as previously stated we are losing three members from the committee hopefully this will be rectified at the meeting and we will be welcoming new blood and new thoughts into the fold.

Next month, news of the AGM and Team golf event.



EAST ANGLIA

A lively bunch arrived at "The Windy City" – AKA Ely City Golf Club.

Still at least it wasn't raining.

Thanks to Andy Baker and his crew for presenting a course in fine fettle.

The wind was probably the winner, but some showed a battling spirit as the scores will show:

0 – 9 Handicap: 1st, Mike Buck (who else?) 34 Points; 2nd, Mike Virley 29 Points

10 – 19 Handicap: 1st, Mat Le Braun (Overall Winner) 36 Points, 2nd Mark Broughton 34 Points

20 – 28 Handicap: 1st Ian Willett, 28 Points, 2nd Martin Brightwell 27 Points

3rd: Trade & Guests: 1st Graham Kemp, 37 Points

2nd: Warren Richards, 34 Points

Nearest The Pin:

2nd Hole: Mike Barney, 6th Hole: Brian Trett, 12th Hole: Craig Spooner, 13th Hole: Michael Buck, Longest Drive: Gavin Merrison, Loo Seat

Mark Broughton (moaned about his golf all the way round, scored 34 points).

I wish I could have a bad round like that!

The prizes were presented by Mike Nash, the club chairman, who made us all very welcome. The main sponsor for the day was Tomlinson Groundcare – lovely hotdogs!

Other VIPs were:- Aitkens, Spearhead, British Sugar (topsoil), Bartram Mowers, Rigby Taylorl Scotts, Sherrif, Evirris, Ben Burgess and Amenity Technology.

Thank you Ely City Golf Club for a good day.

Mick Lathrope

SOUTH WEST & WALES REGION



SOUTH WEST

My my how the weather has changed! The blower is getting all kinds of use blowing these

leaves.

All different types of trees shedding, the big trees, small trees even the hedges.

But on a more serious note, I do hope that this continued weather has not drained you too much.

We at Minchinhampton have just started our winter projects – cutting down all these trees! Just joking, we are continuing with our bunker project, 5 holes, 8+ bunkers, that and tee leveling...could be a very long winter.

What is it you're doing this winter? Share with us by emailing me or uploading your pictures on Facebook.

I always get a little lost this time of year, I never know if this is a little too early for me to say or not...but merry Christmas everyone, I hope that Santa got you everything you wished for.

Remember this Christmas is about having a little rest, you've work hard enough for the last 11 months, take a break, relax and enjoy some time off!

Again people, I would love your involvement with this article, it is yours after all, surely you don't want to hear about what I've been up to all the time, my life really is that boring, share a few things you have going on, just drop me an email an help put a little smile on everyone's face.

We would also like to thanks our patronage partners for 2012, Farmura, Countrywide, Headland, Eco-solve, TH White, Irrtech Ltd, Avoncrop.

We also have a Facebook page for the southwest section, one that will make it much more convenient for you all to use, you don't have to do anything, just enjoy this amazing feature you have at your fingertips.

Adam Matthews



SOUTH COAST

As Christmas approaches it's hard to get a grasp of where the year has gone, it doesn't seem five minutes ago that I left a buoyant and positive BTME week in January and now the 2013 show is approaching fast.

It has been another month of very trying weather and on my travels I can hear the sense of complete frustration from

Around The Green

greenkeepers and groundsmen alike as they continue to battle in trying to manage their turf, the hope is that 2013 will bring a much kinder year, the industry needs it. I have just returned from the excellent South West and Wales Regional Seminar.

It was a great day organised by our hard working regional administrator Jane Jones. Speakers included our very own Rob Wills from Remedy Oak who gave another polished performance and now has to do it all again at BTME in January.

Our own section seminar is taking shape and has been confirmed for Milton Abbey School on Wednesday 20 February.

Confirmed speakers to date are John Lockyer, Course and Grounds Manager at Roehampton Club and Paul Lowe, Technical Sales Manager with Symbio.

We have are waiting to hear from three more speakers and as soon as the final line up is arranged I will be in touch.

Please come along and support the day which is excellent value, provides some quality education, excellent networking opportunities and accrues you some valuable C.P.D. points.

The C.P.D. system is currently being reviewed and is becoming increasingly important in your own development as a greenkeeper. Full details of the seminar and application forms will be sent out very early 2013 along with our fixture cards for 2013 which have almost been completed.

Looks like a good year ahead and we start at Remedy Oak Golf Club for our golf days. As you will know we have changed our method of communicating to you and are embracing email. This is mainly due to spiralling postage costs and as we are trying to be prudent with section funds it was a fairly easy decision to make. If you do not receive emails from us it will be because we don't have your current email address, so please make sure you update your records. You can email me at southcoastsecretary@gmail.com

Merry Christmas and a Happy New year, I hope it brings you and your loved ones all that you and they wish for.

Make an effort in 2013 to attend as many section events as possible, we need your support and collectively as a section are stronger for your presence and that support.

Also BTME is a great week and it needn't cost the earth.

There are scores of free seminars along with some very good value seminars and workshops not forgetting the show.



DEVON AND CORNWALL

Hello all, our November meeting was held at Bowood Park Hotel and Golf Club, near Camelford, Cornwall.

48 attendees enjoyed a rare dry day, for one of our events, at Bowood with 18 playing golf and 30 on the course walk lead by Rob Cook, Head Greenkeeper.

Rob started the course walk by taking us all to the site of a new windmill that is currently being installed behind the clubhouse. The windmill will be used to generate electricity to feed the clubhouse and facilities as well as generating an estimated extra £30,000 of income for the business. The elevated and exposed position along with many other windmills already erected in the area, made it a prime location for the structure. The course was in fantastic condition considering recent rains, very firm in all areas.

Rob and his team have worked hard over the years to improve drainage in key areas and to reduce the thatch content in the upper surface of the USGA greens. Rob has got to the stage now where he is introducing and increasing the population of finer grasses and in particular fescue. The course was a testament to Rob and his young team.

During the course walk, the attendees were given the opportunity to participate in a nearest the pin competition. This was the brainchild of Richard Japes, Sports Metals to give the course-walkers the chance to win a prize. This was won by Mike Ellis from "The Point at Polzeath" and the prize donated and presented by Richard.

The golf format for the day was individual Stableford playing for the "Bayer" Cup. The top three competitors all ended up with 32 points, but the winner on countback was Lee Kirk (MST), in second place was Anthony "Jacko" James (Killiow) and in third was David Daw (Porthpean). Prizes for places were sponsored and presented

by Dave Orchard from Bayer Crop Science. Nearest the pin on the 2nd was won by Lee Kirk and the longest drive on the 18th was won by Adrian West (St Mellion).

Richard Japes, Sports Metals sponsored and presented these prizes. A massive thank you to the two sponsors for the day, Bayer and Sports Metals.

After the fantastic lunch, the members were treated to a presentation by Dave Orchard on "How to get the most from your Fungicides" determining the different modes of action and properties of fungicides, also identifying the stage of the disease you are trying to treat and making sure that the product applied has the capability to deal with task in hand.

A big thank you to Rob and his team and to all at Bowood Park Hotel and Golf Club for their very kind and wonderful hospitality throughout the day.

Our Christmas meeting is to be held at Ashbury GC on Thursday 13 December. The format for the day will be to either play golf (Greensomes) or attend the course walk. This will be followed by Christmas lunch, prizes and raffle. Following this there will be the opportunity to take part in various activities including snooker, indoor bowls and ten-pin bowling. The theme for the day will be "Devon v Cornwall". There will be the opportunity to book accommodation at £25, this includes bed and breakfast and a further round of golf the next day. Please contact me ASAP to secure a place as we expect this to be very popular! Our first meeting of the New Year will be at Perranporth Golf Club on Wednesday 9 January.

I'm sure everyone is aware of Billy Mitchell's tremendous achievement of almost 50 years at the club and of his dedication to the industry.

Billy has been at the forefront of many trials and new initiatives over the years and is held in very high regard throughout the Industry.

That coupled with Perranporth being one of the most natural and unique Links courses in the country, we expect this to be a very popular meeting.

Invites for this meeting will be sent out in early December.

George Pitts, Section Secretary, Bigga Devon & Cornwall
07929 754401
gpitts.yelverton@gmail.com



SOUTH WALES

I will start with our first ever South Wales Section Dinner and Dance, what an evening it was - fantastic to see so many of us sharing the evening with our beautiful wives and partners.

I know we all spend a lot of our time at work and I do feel it is nice to always give something back to the Wags as they are so often known.

There are so many thank yous we need to give firstly Gareth Knight for arranging the evening at St Pierre the venue, entertainment and food was first class thanks Gareth for such a great event.

The sponsors/patrons; without companies purchasing the tables this dinner would not have been possible a massive thank you to all your companies and please after seeing many of the complimentary emails going around please be sure to book for next year - thanks again.

I would just like to put the rumours to bed regarding myself as many of you have seen the number of photos in circulation of me looking like a very attractive lady? Well this wasn't me trying to be Roxanne (Alex Reid) just the beginning of my stag do.

Thanks to most of you guys for coming it truly was a great night and I'm sure many of us are rather scarred by the evening events and we'll leave it at that!

Our Christmas golf event is taking place at Southerndown Golf Club on Friday 14 December at 10am please contact Gareth Knight or Paul Handy to book your place.

With BTME just around the corner please have a good think about coming even with secretaries or chair of greens I'm sure it would be a huge eye opener for many of them seeing the professionalism of us and what goes on behind the scenes.

For information and great hotel bed and breakfast rates please contact Jane Jones.

I wish all of you and your families a very happy Christmas and a DRY new year.

Peter Holmstrom



Diary of Events

Details of your Section's events
in 2012 can be found here...

Date	Event	Venue	Contact
DECEMBER 2012			
December 2nd	Midland Section Event	Sutton Coldfield Golf Club	Andrew Smith Email: andysmithace@hotmail.co.uk
December 3rd	STRI Regional Training – Technical Turf Management Part 1	Tunbridge Wells Golf Club	Rachael Godfrey, tel: 01274 565131 or Email: training@stri.co.uk
December 4th	South Coast Section Winter Event	Hayling Golf Club	Alex McCombie Email: southcoastsecretary@gmail.com
December 4th	STRI Regional Training – Technical Turf Management Part 2	Tunbridge Wells Golf Club	Rachael Godfrey, tel: 01274 565131 or Email: training@stri.co.uk
December 5th	East of England Section	Rutland Country Golf Club	Bruce Hicks tel: 01205 353925 or 07931 714922 Email: brucehicks1@gmail.com
December 5th	East Anglia AGM & Golf Day	Thorpeness Golf & Country Club	Ian Willett tel: 07929 205398 or Email: info@biggaeastanglia.co.uk
December 6th	STRI Regional Training – Pests, Weeds and Diseases	Tunbridge Wells Golf Club	Rachael Godfrey, tel: 01274 565131 or Email: training@stri.co.uk
December 6th	Essex Section Event and AGM	The Essex Golf & Country Club	Antony Kirway tel: 07887 780065 or Email: antz16@btinternet.com
December 7th	Surrey Section AGM	Guildford Golf Club	Ron Christie tel: 02086 543061 or email: ron-appc@tiscali.co.uk
December 10th	Sussex Section AGM		Dave Allen tel: 01273 596282 or email: d38a@msn.com
December 12th	Northern Section Event	Bracken Ghyll Golf Club	Andrew Slingsby Email: slingsbyfamily@virginmedia
December 12th	South West Section Christmas Golf Day		Adam Matthews tel: 07732 503855 or email: adam.l.matthews@hotmail.co.uk
December 12th	BB&O Section Day	The Oxfordshire	Matthew Nutter
December 13th	Devon & Cornwall Section	Ashbury Manor	George Pitts tel: 07929 754401 or email: Gpitts.yelverton@gmail.com
December 13th	London Section AGM	Verulam Golf Club	Adam McColl tel: 07886 513975 or email: adamcoll@hotmail.com
December 14th	South Wales Winter Competition	Southerndown Golf Club	Gareth Knight tel: 01834 842165 or email: gareth@trefoyne.com

BTME 2013



BTME is back for its 24th year at the HIC, 22-24 January 2013

Visit www.btme.org.uk and click the **Register Now** icon



Greenkeepers Training Committee

Donald Steel, GTC Chairman, returns with a monthly update



Trust the talents of the greenkeeper

At this time of seasonal goodwill GTC Chairman Donald Steel appeals to all golf course owners, Secretary Managers and Chair of Greens to trust the talents of their Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper

I believe the GTC employer focused workshops are helping to “educate” the golfer on the importance of the employer-Course Manager partnership.

The Prime Minister may not have had greenkeepers in mind when he said in a recent speech “aspiration is the engine of progress”.

However, he might well have done.

One of the virtues of modern greenkeepers that impresses me is their ambition.

Ambition to forge a career on leaving school, ambition for qualifications, ambition to broaden horizons and ambition to seek top jobs.

It is no longer a retreat when all else fails.

In the past, greenkeepers learned largely as they went along.

Most operations had to be carried out by hand and they sweated blood.

Greens were cut with machines that were hard to push and they walked them from green to green, raking a bunker or two on the way.

It is easy to see now that modern greenkeeping has more appeal.

Former generations never complained (well hardly ever!) any more than professional golfers lamented the use of hickory-shafted golf clubs.

It was all they knew.

Even the far-sighted couldn't have envisaged large metal headed woods and driving distances in excess of 350 yards.

Nor could old-time greenkeepers have fast-forwarded their remote controls to contemplate cutting 18 greens in two or three hours or the fleet of sophisticated machinery at their disposal valued perhaps in

excess of half a million pounds.

It is also sobering to look back on the quaint make-up of Green Committees with the Head Greenkeeper nowhere to be seen.

He had to obey committee members' instructions that were often based on the craziest notions.

There were inevitably mutterings under the breath but only the strongest could mount much of a protest.

Education of young greenkeepers has undoubtedly led the surge for knowledge that is impossible to oppose.

At the same time, it has prompted better communications, resulting in Secretaries, committees and members learning as well.

Mutual trust is key.

GTC seminars and roadshows have proved immensely popular in bringing together Green Committee Chairmen, Secretary/Managers and Head Greenkeepers, the prime figures in ensuring the best possible results without interference from golfers themselves.

Nevertheless, the ideal situation would be one, fast approaching, where all golfers are educated enough to appreciate the role of the head greenkeeper.

If a Club has a Green Chairman who is really effective, and works well with the head greenkeeper, he should be kept in his post for as long as he is willing.

The same arrangement should also exist at public and daily-fee courses.

It might even be more important at such courses.

A green fee paying golfer is just as interested in the condition of courses as a private member paying a hefty subscription.

“It always amuses me that golfers rarely offer hints to the chef at their Clubs on how to concoct their culinary delights, but they feel an entitlement to dabble in technical matters as to how greens are cut or bunkers raked”

He plays wherever he likes.

In that case, the owners of courses need to work closely with their greenkeepers if they want to attract and retain business.

If golfers enjoy what they find, they will return; and enjoyment is usually governed by condition.

It is in the greenkeeper's best interests to encourage such a relationship and for the Green Chairman to be knowledgeable enough to understand what may be explained to him.

It always amuses me that golfers rarely offer hints to the chef at their Clubs on how to concoct their culinary delights but they feel an entitlement to dabble in technical matters as to how greens are cut or bunkers raked.

As more and more greenkeepers attain technical excellence, it makes no sense that their every move has to be scrutinised.

They are appointed on account of their experience and technical qualifications and it is their course.

They are perfectly prepared to be judged on results over a reasonable period but, like the members in their own work place, they should be allowed to get on and do their job without somebody constantly looking over their shoulder.



The GTC is funded by:



Contact Details

David Golding
GTC Education Director

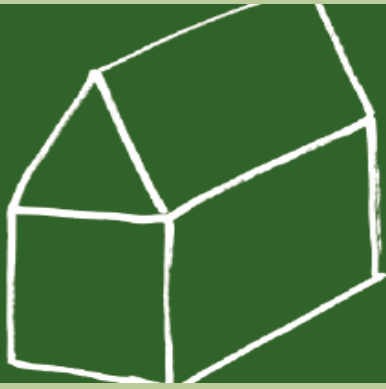
01347 838640
david@the-gtc.co.uk

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YO61 1UF

www.the-gtc.co.uk



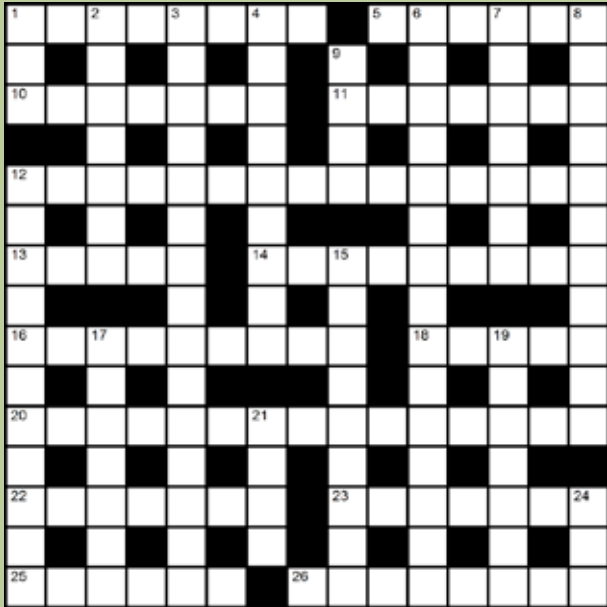
You can follow the GTC on
Twitter @TheOfficialGTC



in the shed

Our monthly puzzle page to keep you entertained in the winter months..

CROSSWORD



Across

- 1 Collectively, the provision of welfare payments (8)
- 5 Symbolic device (6)
- 10 Sacred object revered by some N American Indians (7)
- 11 Act in a customarily accepted way (7)
- 12 In the Mark Twain novels, close friend of Tom Sawyer (11,4)
- 13 The thick of something (5)
- 14 US-Canadian sci-fi series based on Gene Roddenberry's unused Star Trek material (9)
- 16 Strong adhesive - generically, cyanoacrylate (9)
- 18 Mother-in-law of Ruth (Old Testament) (5)
- 20 Sporadic provision of services based on where people live (8,7)
- 22 Old Testament book which follows Lamentations (7)
- 23 Highway robber (7)
- 25 South Pacific attire worn by men and women (6)
- 26 Essex town served by Grange Hill railway station (8)

Down

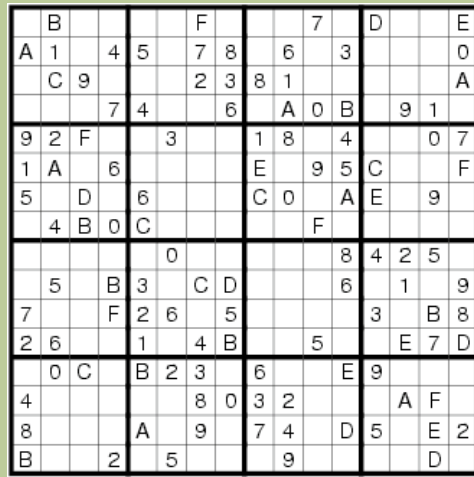
- 1 To sponge or cadge (3)
- 2 Of certain atoms or elements, basic or metallic (7)
- 3 1987 film which added 'bunny boiler' to dictionaries (5,10)
- 4 Small version of larger image (9)
- 6 The first music video aired on MTV (5,3,7)
- 7 Assign great importance to someone (7)
- 8 Very briefly or very soon (11)
- 9 Tree genus which includes maple and sycamore (4)
- 12 Man (4,7)
- 15 Loose Arabian long-sleeved, hooded cloak (9)
- 17 Louis ---, French scientist 1822-95 (7)
- 19 To function (7)
- 21 Old World herb with aromatic, thread-like foliage (4)
- 24 Express mail service based in Bonn, Germany (3)

QUICK 'NINE HOLE' QUIZ

It's been a fabulous year of sport but how closely were you paying attention?

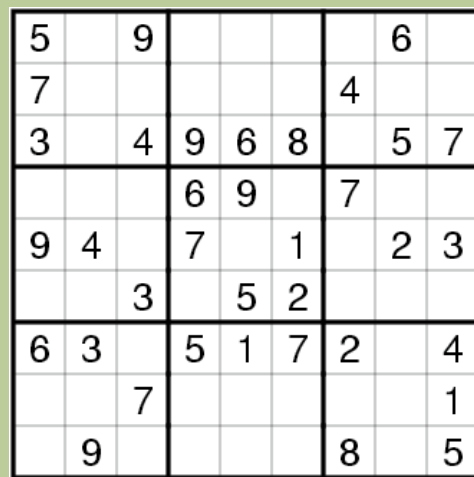
- 1) Which county does England cricket captain Alastair Cook play for?
- 2) Helen Glover and Heather Stanning won Team GB's first gold medal at the 2012 Olympics. Which sport were they competing in?
- 3) Which comedian featured in the Opening Ceremony pretending to play a piano?
- 4) How many gold medals did Usain Bolt win at the 2012 Olympics?
- 5) Who scored the winning penalty

- for Chelsea in the Champions League Final 2012?
- 6) How many Grand Slam finals has Andy Murray competed in?
- 7) What was the final score when Manchester City beat QPR in their final league game to win the Premier League title?
- 8) Who is the bookies' favourite to win The BBC Sports Personality of the Year 2012?
- 9) Which football club won two games in eight days at Wembley in May 2012?



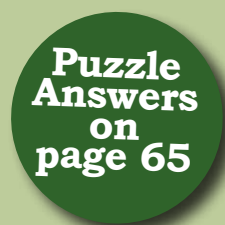
MONSTER SUDOKU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 4x4 box contains the numbers 0 to 9 and the letters A to E.



SUDOKU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 9 box shape contains the numbers 1 to 9.





THE HOW TO SERIES

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- How to recruit the right staff
- How to write a job description

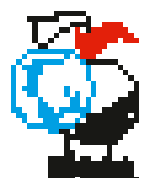
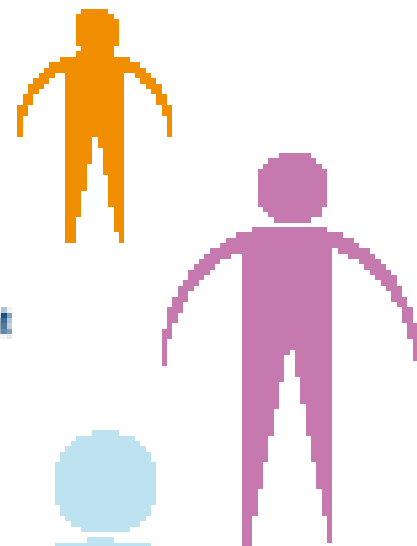
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"How To..." guides are now available exclusively to BIGGA Members, on a range of Human Resource topics.

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The "How To..." guides are a new benefit of BIGGA membership and are brought to you thanks to the continuing support of the contributors to the Learning and Development Fund.





Greenkeeper Training



A guide to the range of training provided throughout the UK

BIGGA is actively involved in raising the standard of Greenkeeper Training. The Association is a member of the Greenkeepers' Training Committee and strives to enhance the level of education through various means, including Section, Regional and National workshops, seminars and conferences.

The range and quality of training now available throughout the UK means there is a training course for every greenkeeper.

This should improve the quality of greenkeeping and help to produce better quality golf courses to the benefit of all within the industry.

Golf Course Managers should ensure that their staff are trained to the highest standards.

This begins by selecting a training provider that meets the criteria laid down by the GTC.

There is a clear link between education, training and economic success and all clubs should invest in the education of their staff.

There are now a number of GTC Quality Assured Centres and Training Providers identified by the GTC Quality Assured logo



Sami Collins
Head of Learning & Development
BIGGA
01347 833800
sami@bigga.co.uk
www.bigga.org.uk

SCOTLAND



Cupar, Fife, KY15 4JB

Contact: Michael.clark@sruc.ac.uk

Full-time National Certificate Greenkeeping, Block Release / Fast Track and Work-based Learning options for SVQ Levels 2 & 3 Sports Turf. SVQ Level 4 Management (block release).

HNC/D Golf Course Management (full time and distance learning), HNC/D Golf Facility Management (full time).

Short course in Chainsaw, Tree Climbing and Rescue Techniques, Plant Operations, Pesticide Spraying and Noroso Certification/ Courses



50 Brook Street, Glasgow, G40 2AB

Contact: Lesley Lowrie 0141-556-3999

Fax: 0141-556-4999 learn@gostatraining.co.uk

SVQ Level 2 and 3 and Modern Apprenticeship in Greenkeeping/ Sportsturf and Landscape. Attendance Day release or Distance Learning. SVQ Level 4 Management is available with flexible learning options. Lantra and NPTC Industry related short courses with certification include Pesticide courses, Chainsaw, full range of Machinery training, First Aid and many more. Candidates may use their Individual Learning Account to fund many of the courses. Training courses are available in Glasgow and Edinburgh areas throughout the year.

ENGLAND

ASKHAM BRYAN COLLEGE

Askham Bryan, York, North Yorkshire, YO23 3FR

Contact: Central admissions 01904 772211

enquiries@askham-bryan.ac.uk www.askham-bryan.ac.uk

Extended Diploma and Subsidiary Diploma in Horticulture. Foundation & Extended Foundation Degrees in Sports Surface Management, Horticulture, Landscape and Garden Management or Arboriculture. All available full or part-time.

Block release courses: WBL Diploma Levels 2 & 3 Greenkeeping WBL Diploma Levels 2 & 3 Groundsman Sportsturf Maintenance.

Short courses: FEPA spraying, irrigation, chainsaw and brushcutter courses.



BRIDGWATER

Bridgwater College (Cannington Centre for Land-based Studies), Cannington, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA5 2LS

Contact: Helen Goodland; Tel: 07786311429;

Fax: 01278 444363

Email: goodlandh@bridgwater.ac.uk

www.bridgwater.ac.uk

Level 2 and 3 apprenticeship and work-based learning schemes available as well as full time BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Sports Turf. Additional short courses include PA1, 2 and 6, Spraying, Chainsaw, First Aid, Manual Handling and PAT Testing.

ENGLAND

GTC QUALITY ASSURED CENTRES AND TRAINING PROVIDERS



A full list of GTC approved training providers can be obtained from the GTC. The Greenkeepers Training Committee (GTC) are continually reviewing the approved status of centres and training providers offering greenkeeper training courses.

For more information contact the GTC on: 01347 838640 or visit: www.the-gtc.co.uk



Bilsborrow, Preston, Lancashire PR3 0RY

Contact: Course Enquiries team on 01995 642211

www.myerscough.ac.uk Email: enquiries@myerscough.ac.uk

Myerscough College is a pioneering centre for Sportsturf Education and Training in Europe. Courses are available at all levels from Introductory Diploma to Honours Degrees in Sportsturf Science and Management. There are options for full-time and part-time study with our FdSc Sportsturf and BSc Sportsturf Science courses uniquely available ONLINE also and having students enrolled throughout the UK, Europe and the USA. A new "Top-Up" BSc Degree in Sportsturf Science and Management is now available for those already holding FdSc or HND qualifications in Sportsturf. Our Work Based learning team offers apprenticeship opportunities throughout the UK.



Stoke Climsland, Callington, Cornwall, PL17 8PB

Rosewarne, Camborne, Cornwall, TR14 0AB

Contact: Liz Clarkson 01579 372345/07785105087

liz.clarkson@duchy.ac.uk www.duchy.ac.uk

A range of courses delivered throughout the South West: Levels 2 and 3 Workbased Diplomas and Apprenticeships in Horticulture including Greenkeeping and Groundsmanship. NVQ 4 Amenity Horticulture (Management). Level 2 and 3 Diplomas in Horticulture (including Sustainable Horticulture) FdSc and BSc (Hons) Horticulture. HND/HNC in Garden and Landscape Design. RHS Level 1, 2 and Advanced Certificate. Also short courses in pesticides, plant machinery vehicles, and chainsaws. Distance learning available via e-portfolios.



OAKLANDS COLLEGE

Smallford Campus, Hatfield Road, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL4 0JA

Contact: Andrew Wight 01272 737735

andy.wight@oaklands.ac.uk

www.oaklands.ac.uk

Oaklands College offers on demand, on-line learning in City and Guilds levels 2 (Craft), 3 (Supervisory) and 4 (Management) Greenkeeping, Sports Turf Management and Horticulture throughout the South East. In addition we provide on-demand workbased apprenticeships at Levels 2 and 3. Full time courses on offer include Level 2 in Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Management and Horticulture Entry L3 to Level 3. We also offer short courses for PA1, 2 and 6.

HADLOW COLLEGE

Tonbridge, Kent, TN11 0AL

Tel: 0500 551434

E-mail: enquiries@hadlow.ac.uk

Website: www.hadlow.ac.uk



City & Guilds work-based qualifications at Levels 2 and 3 in Greenkeeping, Groundsmanship and Landscaping for apprenticeships for all ages. We also offer a range of short courses, such as Health & Safety, COSHH, Chainsaw and Pesticide Application.

Additionally full and part-time courses (post GCSE through to degree level) are available in horticulture and a variety of other land-based subjects.



Plumpton College

Plumpton, NR Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 3AE

Tel: 01273 890454 enquiries@plumpton.ac.uk

www.plumpton.ac.uk

Foundation Degree: Garden Design. Levels 2 and 3, Diploma in Horticulture. Part time courses: Work based Diploma: Level 1 and Level 2: Greenkeeping, Groundsmanship, Landscaping and Horticulture. Level 3: Greenkeeping, Groundsmanship, Landscaping and Horticulture apprenticeships offered. Level 4: Horticulture, Parks, Gardens and Greenspace. RHS Level 2 and 3 theory and practical. Short courses available. FEPA Spraying and Chainsaw. Bespoke Training, following Training Needs Analysis (TNA).



Worplesdon, Guildford, Surrey GU3 3PE www.merristwood.ac.uk

Contact: Philip Mayes 07896 67 47 89 pmayes@guildford.ac.uk or Andrew McEvoy 07896 67 47 86 amcevoy@guildford.ac.uk

Part-time courses: New Sports Turf Management NVQ Level 4 - on-line distance learning course, Sports Turf Diploma Level 3 - on-line distance learning, Sports Turf Apprenticeship Diploma Level 3, Greenkeeping Apprenticeship Diploma Level 2, Groundsmanship Apprenticeship Diploma Level 2, Automatic Turf Irrigation Systems NPTC Certificate, NPTC courses including Safe Use and Operation of Mowers, Tractor Driving, Hedge Trimmers, FEPA Spraying and others. Please contact us for up-to-date listings, qualifications and advice on courses and funding. Open evenings are held regularly at the College.



Nantwich, Cheshire CW5 6DF

Contact: Gareth Phillips 01270 613236

enquiries@reaseheath.ac.uk

www.reaseheath.ac.uk

Block release industry tailored courses include Level 2 and 3 Work Based Diploma in Horticulture / Greenkeeping and Groundsmanship.

Also: NVQ Level 4 Sports Turf (distance learning) and apprenticeships plus full-time Level 2 / Level 3 Diplomas in Horticulture. Short courses include pesticide application, chainsaw operation, safe use of mowers. Bespoke courses and overseas programmes available on request. Campus facilities include a commercial golf course, rugby and football pitches.

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For more information call **01995 642211**
or visit www.myerscough.ac.uk



Warwickshire College

Sports Turf Apprenticeship

Study at: Pershore or Moreton Morrell Centre, one day fortnightly.

Qualification: Intermediate/Advanced Apprenticeship in Horticulture, specialising in Sports Turf.

The apprenticeships in Sports Turf Management have routes in groundsman and groundkeeper. Apprenticeships are a great way for students to earn and learn and fantastic for employers to have trained and skilled staff. Short courses also available at both sites, covering PA1, PA2, PA6, Chainsaw, P & D, First Aid, Landscape design and many more.

Ask about training delivered on-site and bespoke courses for employers.

Contact: Helen Dickson
Call Pershore: 01386 551185 / Moreton Morrell: 01926 318307
Mobile: 07864 933651. Email: hdickson@warkscol.ac.uk

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BUYERS' GUIDE

Low Maintenance

There comes a time in everyone's personal development when all the reasons not to have the suitable training or certificate of competence have gone and it comes down to one last, all important matter – action!

When it comes to providing high quality training and offering every candidate a positive learning experience Low Maintenance is the place to train. Our team come from a range of industries including a long term military service spanning twenty three years, to arboriculture and then into education. Educating has been at the heart of what we do since 2004 when Low Maintenance Training was established, although we do run an arboricultural service a long side our training side of the business to ensure we are keeping up with the changes in the industry.

Our key aim is to provide positive learning experiences through working closely with people to meet individual needs and requirements, we offer a comprehensive range of courses at affordable prices we strongly believe training doesn't need to cost the earth and are totally committed to our ethos of providing high quality training.

Our newest member of the team is Demelza she comes from ten years of working in the educational sector although her rural background of living and working in the Yorkshire Dales make her a perfect edition to our team. She comes from a strong farming background but started her career in horticulture which was joked about at the time as being 'the black sheep of the family' (fancy going into gardening when she was a famer!). Once qualified she worked in the horticultural sector for a number of years before trying her hand at teaching in the FE sector with students from local secondary schools mainly unmotivated and disillusioned young people. This went from strength to strength and whilst teaching she qualified in environmental conservation and gained her City & Guilds (NPTC) certificates of competence in pesticides, chainsaw maintenance, tree felling, tree climbing and aerial rescue and use of a chainsaw from a rope and harness. In her time with us so far not only does she carry out training she has developed our website www.low-maintenance.co.uk, our Facebook page Low Maintenance Training and she is currently working on [twitter@lowe_maintenanc](https://twitter.com/lowe_maintenanc) so feel free to keep in touch with us.

Our courses aren't only for those who want or need the certificates we also offer training in the safe use of the equipment or techniques. Access for all is important to us so much so we offer taster sessions to injured military personnel, people who aren't sure what is involved in the industry and those who would like refreshers.

We have run courses at a number of golf clubs and the main attraction is that we are happy to come to you and also whilst we are carrying out the courses we are working on the site (no time away for the greenkeepers though!). We're also now offering the Level 2 Award In the Safe Use of Aluminium Phosphide for Vertebrate Pest Control.

We can't guarantee a 100% pass rate but we will guarantee you rewarding experiences that can be applied to daily situations.



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