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John Deere 1445, c/w: various deck and hours - choice of 7.....	from £7'000
John Deere 1445 with cab, c/w: 62" SD deck - 2126hrs	£9'750
John Deere 1545, c/w: 62" deck.....	£POA
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Kubota BX2200, c/w: deck and RD collector - 2328hrs.....	£5'500
Kubota G1700, c/w: 48" RD deck + collector - 783hrs	£3'500
Kubota G18, c/w: 48" RD deck + collector - 597hrs	£6'750
Kubota G23, c/w: 48" RD deck + Hi Tip collector - choice of 7 (EX HIRE MACHINES)
.....	£POA
Kubota G26, c/w: 54" RD deck + Hi Tip collector - choice of 2 (EX HIRE MACHINES)
.....	£POA
Lastec Articulator Wide Area Mower, c/w: zero turn - 916hrs	£6'500
Ransome HR6010 Wide Area Mower - choice of 2	from £12'000
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Scag Z Cat Zero Turn, c/w: 42" RD deck - choice of 2	£2'500

Pedestrian Rotary Mowers

Ferris 36 Hydrowalk, 17hp, 36" width of cut - choice of 3.....	from £2'000
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John Deere 2500E Hybrid greens mower, c/w: 22" 11 blade units - 1938hrs.....	£7'500
John Deere 2500E Hybrid greens mower, c/w: 22" units - 1642hrs	£6'000
John Deere 3235B, c/w: 5X8 blade ESP units, FTC, RR brushes, spiral grooved front rollers	£7'500

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Roberine 900 Triple, c/w: 30" fixed heads - choice of 2.....	from £6'500
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Pedestrian Cylinder Mowers

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Massey Ferguson 1528 c/w: front brush, 28hp, 430hrs	£11'750
New Holland TN75s, 72hp, 3353hrs, c/w: cab + turf tyres	£12'500
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Yanmar KE160, 16hp, 28hrs, c/w: Lewis front loader, turf tyres.....	£8'500

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How you can influence committee meetings

Paul Worster, recently elected onto the board of FEGGA, takes a look at Golf Club Committee Meetings and states how, by helping to steer them, the Greenkeeper can become more central to the needs of the golf club business in today's difficult times

Recently, I've heard of many greenkeepers coming under severe pressure or even being made redundant, but I want to see the greenkeeper increasingly becoming regarded as the most important figure in the club structure; the person to who the club look to for leadership, especially in difficult times.

I'm aware of what can sometimes go wrong in Committee and Board Meetings and I'd like to look at how the Greenkeeper/Manager can not only avoid the pitfalls, but start to take charge.

Last year, I attended an evening to recognise the environmental success achieved by a famous club in the South of the UK. About 40 delegates enjoyed several presentations charting the progress of various environmental initiatives and discussed the issues encountered along the way.

However, during the Q&As a visiting Secretary stood up. "This is all fine and good" he said, "but it's only working well here because this club wants it to work. At my club, I've spent six months working with my Course Manager, Catering Manager and Pro to form an Environmental Policy for our club.

We dealt with everything; wildflowers and composting, re-use of waste cooking oil, disposal of cardboard and stationery, energy, lights - the whole lot. I presented it to the Committee, who gave it a quick two minute reading and then threw it out with the comment "the ruddy staff are starting to run this place".

Another Secretary added: "That's because some clubs are still not being run as proper businesses.

He added: "At my Board meeting last week we had a twenty-five minute debate on the appropriate length of socks to be worn on the course this summer. Long socks, short socks, football socks, nylon socks, red socks, white socks - the list was endless - I

tried to minute it, but we didn't reach any firm conclusions.

"The next item on the agenda was the purchase of a £26,000 tractor, and that went through in less than a minute".

Now this all set me wondering...my experiences as a volunteer director taught me that meetings don't just happen. The Chairman and Managers' inputs into the agenda are vital, and the agenda is the most important document.

Preparation is everything and disputes and discussions around anything remotely sensitive or controversial need to have been resolved well in advance. In other words, individual members of the committee often need to have been won over sensitively outside of the meeting by lobbying and discussion.

Let's take another look at those two examples. It's not realistic to expect a far-reaching Environmental Policy be accepted and embraced by volunteer committee members 'on the hoof'. This laudable policy making should, right at the outset, have involved the input of the Chairman of the Committee.

He must run it by every single member of his committee in advance of the meeting and iron out any sticking points or concerns. It should not have been included as an agenda item even for discussion, never mind a vote, until the Chairman was assured of the support of the meeting.

Likewise the socks issue is not an appropriate matter for a Board of Directors to waste valuable time debating at length during a formal meeting. The Chairman should have asked for notification on any issues which may require attention at least a month in advance.

When the dress code issue was flagged up,

he would have had time to refer it straight to the General Manager, who would then be able to confer with a couple of other local clubs and source an appropriate existing policy. The easily reworded document is then circulated well in advance of the meeting for comment. Come the actual meeting, a new policy for the club, previously agreed and proven to have worked in a similar background, can be formally signed off without any undue delay.

Relieved of lengthy discussions over trivia, the Board then has the sufficient time and energy to properly consider the important tractor purchase. To summarise - the input of General Manager and Greenkeeper/Course Manager into the meeting agenda is vital.

"A secretary told me of a board meeting which featured a 25 minute debate on the length of socks to be worn on the course. The next item on the agenda was the purchase of a £26,000 tractor, and that went through in less than a minute"

Setting a suitable well-researched agenda with well-presented supporting information is critical to the smooth running and positive outcome of any Committee Meeting.

Discuss and resolve any remotely controversial matters with all committee members prior to the meeting to ensure there are no lengthy debates or nasty surprises.

We, the greenkeepers, need to identify our professional objectives for the meeting and work to achieve them. The Chairman will very soon recognise us as the professionals - because we make his job easier.

Recruitment

Vacancy for Assistant Greenkeeper



Applicant should ideally have qualifications in the turf industry. It is essential that the individual is motivated and enthusiastic and will work under the direction of the Course Manager. Salary is dependent on qualifications and experience candidates will be required to submit a detailed C.V. and attend an interview if shortlisted. For further information please contact Mr S Pugh on 0161 998 9278 (option 3)

Closing date 26th April.

**Head Greenkeeper, Didsbury Golf Club
Ford Lane, Northenden, Manchester M22 4NQ**

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Pannal Golf Club, Harrogate, North Yorkshire

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Working week 7.00am – 3.30pm Monday – Friday, together with some weekend overtime.

Please send your CV to Neil Douglas, Managing Secretary at: Pannal Golf Club (Harrogate) Ltd, Follifoot Road, Pannal, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, HG3 1ES

Or by email: secretary@pannalgolfclub.co.uk

Closing Date: 12th April 2013

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Melton Mowbray Golf Club is a private members course opened in 1925 set in the rolling north Leicestershire county side. Arranged over 18 holes with a covered driving range and additional short game practice area.

We are seeking an enthusiastic and self-motivated Head Green Keeper who must be qualified to NVQ/Work-based Diploma level 3 in Sports Turf maintenance. You should also have PA1, PA2 and PA 6A qualifications in the application of pesticides, chainsaw certificate desirable and knowledge of basic IT systems. The successful candidate should have at least five years experience of green keeping, with the desire to produce the course to the highest standards.

An attractive, remuneration package will reflect the ability of the successful candidate. Please apply by email including your CV, and qualifications to: secretary@meltonmowbraygc.co.uk

Full Job Description can be supplied up on application.

Closing date for applications 12th April 2013.

Interviews will take place w/c 12th & 15th April 2013

Mechanic/Greenkeeper

Saffron Walden Golf Club requires a Mechanic/ Greenkeeper to join its greenkeeping team.

Applicants should possess the appropriate experience to carry out routine maintenance, repairs and servicing to the club's large fleet of turf equipment. The ability to diagnose mechanical, hydraulic and electrical faults, and to keep accurate service records, is essential.

The successful candidate will also be required to assist with golf course maintenance tasks. Any experience and qualifications in this area will be a distinct advantage but not essential. Salary will be in line with CGCS recommended rates.

Apply in writing with CV and a covering letter to:

The General Manager, Saffron Walden Golf Club, Windmill Hill

Saffron Walden, Essex, CB10 1BX

Closing Date: :20th April 2013

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We are currently looking to recruit a Greenkeeper on a two-year sponsored placement. The successful candidate will be responsible for the routine maintenance of the golf course and a 7-a-side football pitch, in accordance with our Risk Assessments and Health and Safety Policies.

As the ideal candidate you will have been working for at least a year on a golf course or fine turf environment, studying at NVQ level 2 in a turf or horticulture-related subject and be prepared to continue studying to achieve NVQ level 3 in this subject. We will actively encourage and support you in these studies and honour day-release obligations.

This is a varied role with other responsibilities that include:

- Maintaining the golf course including furniture and decking



- Maintaining and operating the water irrigation system to meet the seasonal growing requirements of the grass plant, whilst managing the resource by monitoring rainfall and forecast weather conditions
- Maintaining trial grass plots for our business partners
- Operating and maintaining machinery to the standards set out in the operators and maintenance manual for each piece of equipment
- Cleaning, preparing and storing each piece of equipment after use in line with the manufacturers' recommendation to maintain its quality and precision.
- Pruning trees, trimming hedges and cutting

back shrubs, as required.

- Assisting with customer visits, demonstrations and product training, as required
- Assisting with the test and trial of newly developed equipment

This could be your springboard to a successful career in the turf care industry, so if you're looking to progress and are interested in this career opportunity, please send or email your CV to:

Carol Mellelieu, HR Director, Ransomes Jacobsen, West Road, Ransomes Europark, Ipswich, Suffolk IP3 9TT

Email: cmellelieu@tip.textron.com



puzzlepage answers

QUICK 'NINE HOLE' QUIZ ANSWERS:

- 1) Rafael Nadal
- 2) Shikhar Dharwan
- 3) York City
- 4) Trent Bridge, Lords, Old Trafford, The Riverside Durham, The Oval
- 5) Shane Warne
- 6) Alvaro Arbeloa
- 7) Borussia Dortmund
- 8) Christian Benteke
- 9) Brentford

CROSSWORD

	K	I	N	G	S	L	E	Y	A	M	I	S
S	N	N	A	A		U	A		P			
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MONSTER SUDOKO

B	3	7	1	8	9	2	C	A	5	6	4
4	8	2	C	A	1	5	6	3	9	7	B
6	9	A	5	4	B	7	3	2	1	8	C
7	5	6	B	2	3	C	8	9	A	4	1
1	4	3	9	6	5	A	B	7	2	C	8
A	2	C	8	9	7	4	1	6	3	B	5
C	6	1	3	5	2	B	7	8	4	A	9
5	A	4	7	1	8	6	9	B	C	3	2
9	B	8	2	C	4	3	A	5	6	1	7
2	1	B	4	3	6	8	5	C	7	9	A
8	C	5	6	7	A	9	4	1	B	2	3
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Monster Daily SuDoku: Thu 28-Mar-2013 hard

SQUIGGLY SUDOKO

5	8	7	2	6	1	9	3	4
3	4	6	7	8	9	5	1	2
1	9	2	3	5	4	6	8	7
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9	1	8	4	7	6	3	2	5
2	3	4	9	1	5	7	6	8
7	6	5	8	2	3	1	4	9

Daily SuDoku: Thu 28-Mar-2013 medium

The Back Nine

A column for writers and members to air and share their views on golf greenkeeping topics

As the golf season begins properly it seems many golfers will be struck by the highly contagious annual virus known as 'Augusta Syndrome'. Scott Corrigan, Head Greenkeeper at Greenburn Golf Club, grabs his stethoscope and searches for a cure

For golf course greenkeepers, Augusta National Golf Club and The Masters is a wonderful example of what can be achieved and created with unlimited resources.

I couldn't even guess at their annual course budget – but I reckon Greenburn Golf Club could comfortably survive for the next century on what they spend in a year.

We're now yet again approaching the start of a new golfing season which will inevitably be accompanied by the dreaded 'Augusta Syndrome'.

As we emerge from the wettest year on record off the back of two very wet years previously, the golf industry around the world again looks to a single date during the second weekend in April to signify the Masters tournament as the unofficial start to the golfing season.

Ever since the Masters was first televised in colour in 1967, golfers have aspired to what they thought was the next best thing, an emerald green golf course to play on every week. We all know of golfers who race out and expect their local course to be conditioned like Augusta the Monday after the Masters.

But as the average golfer settles down to watch the Masters on his 46inch widescreen HD television with the central heating on full, think of the struggling superintendent and his team at Augusta National who enjoys a mindblowing budget, enjoy the use of the world's best equipment to look after the course and have thousands of man hours available each week.

Then there's the under-soil heating and sub-air systems they have on the greens, and don't forget about the large fans and lighting rigs they can utilise on those dull days with little sunlight, and all this mentioned is just for starters! As Ron Dobson famously denounced: 'Augusta National is a television



Mowers run down the first fairway at the Masters, Augusta National Golf Club. (Photo by David Cannon/Getty Images)

studio on which a golf tournament is played in the spring'.

Augusta reportedly dye their ponds blue, paint the grass green, refrigerate or warm the azaleas to allow them to bloom perfectly for the Masters, and rumour has it that last year Hollywood set designers were brought in to hide damage caused by the use of weedkillers. Granted, the pressures to prepare Augusta compared to the average golf course are immense.

But here's an interesting exercise for you. Look up 'Augusta National Golf Club' on Google Maps to see it in its natural state, and when you zoom in you will find the true golf course.

You'll see grass that looks like natural grass, with bare patches and faded greens with dry ponds, a rather scorched appearance that people will not associate with the Augusta we know.

We greenkeepers love watching this tournament as much if not more than the next golf fanatic, but the expectations placed on our industry after the Masters is

“Augusta reportedly dye their ponds blue, paint the grass green and refrigerate or warm the azaleas”

about the author



Scott Corrigan has been Head Greenkeeper at Greenburn Golf Club in Harthill, North Lanarkshire for four years, and in total has spent 23 years working at the 18-hole course which is a combination of moorland and parkland.

He studied at Oatridge College, and since last November he has been Chairman of BIGGA's East Scotland section.

enough to make many of us tear our hair out. So golfers - please spare a thought for greenkeepers in the real world who work tirelessly to produce the best courses possible with more and more restrictions imposed in the form of limited funds and reduced budgets, and with the minimal manpower available.

Also bear in mind the issues that come with working with ageing equipment and don't forget the unpredictable weather that we need to work with (eight inches of snow have fallen in March here already).

So this year, as spring approaches, I hope the golfers understand it's as realistic to expect the average golf course to look like Augusta National as it is to expect their own golf game to perform like Rory McIlroy or Tiger Woods.

The views expressed within this column are not necessarily those of Greenkeeper International

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