



NATIONAL GOLF MONTH LAUNCHED

A closest to the pin shoot-out by Liz Young and Holly Aitchinson of the Ladies European Tour marked the Official Launch of National Golf Month at the Playgolf Centre, Northwick Park. The launch was well attended by Golf Industry members and the press who gathered to see Doug Poole (Director of National Golf Month) speak passionately about growing the game of golf and how National Golf Month aims to achieve this.

National Golf Month (NGM) – a British Golf Industry initiative – is an amazing event where all the leading golf companies and associations are joining together to increase the numbers playing golf. Support for National Golf Month has seen all the major Golf Unions and Associations, Golf Clubs, Driving Ranges, Golf Manufacturers and PGA Professionals sign up to work together to reverse the trend and get more players on course to enjoy the game.

Bubba Watson's rallying cry that he "plays golf because I just love the game" coincides with the launch of National Golf Month which aims to get an extra 100,000 lapsed or new golfers playing the game in May.

Watson, who captured his second Masters title last month, declared "I don't play golf because I want people to tell me how great I am at it. I don't play golf to make a living. It has given me my values and everything I have ever owned in my life."

Sir Nick Faldo, three times champion of The Open and The Masters, said: "I'm very excited to be supporting National Golf Month. It's a special effort to get thousands of golfers playing actively or learning to play golf. The game provides an eternal number of self-challenges; an endless stream of goals to beat your own best."

Charley Hull, who was introduced to golf aged two and won Rookie of the Year on the Ladies European Tour in 2013 when she became the youngest competitor to play in the Solheim Cup, said: "Golf is a fun game you can enjoy with all your family and friends, so use the great offers available during National Golf Month and get out playing this coming May."



ETESIA MOWERS STAND THE TEST OF TIME

A range of Etesia mowers, including two new Duocut RMHB 46cm pedestrian mowers, are helping to maintain the green space areas surrounding and including Durham University - the UK's third oldest university.

Durham University has a unique estate, which includes 63 listed buildings and also owns and manages the World Heritage Site in partnership with Durham Cathedral. The University's ownership of the World Heritage site includes Durham Castle, Palace Green, and the surrounding buildings including the historic Cosin's library.

Barry Shipman has been working in the garden and grounds team at the university for over 40 years and was recently promoted to garden and grounds supervisor. He now has a team of nine gardeners to assist with the upkeep of the facility which is roughly a third of Durham city and also includes the botanical gardens.

When purchasing new equipment, Barry discusses matters with the horticultural officer to see what machines are suitable and could make the life of their operators easier which include noise, vibrations etc.

Barry and his team like to keep the grass short and presentable at all times, which over the last year has been very testing, but as he explains, has been made easier with the range of ride-on and pedestrian mowers he discovered over 15 years ago.

"We have an excellent relationship with our local machinery dealer, Lloyds, who are very knowledgeable and they recommended Etesia to us when we were looking for a mower which we could use in the wet and capable of being able to cut and collect or cut and drop," explained Barry.

"I like the fact that we can cut, collect or cut and drop using the same machine because it saves us so much time. We order three new machines per year, which simply replace the oldest ones and so the cycle continues.

"The Etesia mowers have really come into their own in the past 12 months because they have been so good at cutting and collecting in the wet weather we've experienced. We have mobile grass cutting teams and the new Duocut models have been popular with them because they are very light for people to lift on and off van/trailer from site to site.

The new range of Duocut 46cm mowers are extremely versatile, and are capable of mowing with or without collection in all conditions, or allowing high-quality mulching. And they do all of this with no need for an accessory – you just place the removable insert under the deck if you choose to mulch, making them very operator-friendly. Excellent mulching results are achieved because the grass is very finely 'crushed', even if it is long and wet.

BUYERS' GUIDE

John Greasley

One of Europe's leading golf course constructors



During the summer of 2013, the company started a major reconstruction project at Fureso Golfklub at Birkerød in Denmark, rebuilding 11 of the course's 27 holes. The remaining 16 holes will be reconstructed this summer.

During the autumn and winter 2013/2014 the company returned to work on the reconstruction of all 18 holes on Les Pins, Hardelot in Northern France. Having completed the front nine holes last year works continued with the rebuilding of green surrounds, all greenside and fairway bunkers and a number of tees were altered and reshaped to complete the refurbishment of this tree lined links course.

Following the initial bunker works on the La Mer course at Le Touquet work has commenced on a major restoration project. The 11th, 12th and 13th holes have been totally changed with new greens constructed on holes 11 and 13. New tees on holes 12 and 13 have been integrated within the dunes along with re-bunkering to all fairways and recontouring of the 12th green surrounds. A new 15th fairway has been cleared, graded and seeded in

preparation for a new 15th hole next year. Three more holes are to be reconstructed this autumn.

The first phase has just been completed of the reconstruction of 38 bunkers over nine holes at Verulam Golf Club, St Albans (home of the Ryder Cup), all lined with our proprietary Hyline bunker liner.

Other bunker reconstruction projects completed this autumn using Hyline were at Wildernesse Golf Club in Kent, Blackwell Golf Club, West Midlands, Radcliffe Golf Club in Nottingham.

Other works carried out over the year included a new 4th Green at Hankley Common Golf Club with new tees and fairway bunkering. The 5th hole at Fairhaven Golf Club was completely remodelled with dramatic improvements to the greens surrounds including the formation of revetted bunkering and the transplanting of heather and gorse.

The first phase of bunker reconstruction was completed to the delight of the members at Cuddington Golf Club, Banstead. New 5th and 8th tees have been rebuilt along with ornamental sleeper ditch at Longcliffe Golf Club, Loughborough.

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Greenkeepers Training Committee

This month the GTC provides an update on the Trailblazer project

GTC continues its work as a Trailblazer



As you will have read in last month's Greenkeeper International, Donald Steel reported on the GTC's invitation to No 10 Downing Street with David Croxton, Chair of the Trailblazer Reform Working Group, and Ryan Bezzant, a current apprentice from Ealing Golf Club.

This month, David Golding, GTC's Education Director, gives us an update on the progress to date.

David said: "Back in March, the GTC was awarded Apprenticeship Trailblazer status by the Government, and since then it has been all systems go!

We have already held our inaugural Trailblazer Reform Working Group meeting at Cold Ashby Golf Club with representatives from Employers, the Professional Bodies, Centres (Colleges), Lantra Sector Skills Council, City & Guilds and Business, Innovation and Skills Dept (BIS).

The next meeting is scheduled for later this month. Workshops have also been held in London, meeting with other Trailblazers.

"I believe the apprenticeship reform will allow the golf sector to develop a quality standard including a high level assessment approach to meet the requirements of golf club employers. Its aim is to develop skilled and knowledgeable apprentices for whom the world could become their oyster.

"As the game of golf continues to grow globally and becomes an Olympic sport in 2016, it is important that golf courses are maintained and managed by highly skilled professionals, and the new apprenticeship will provide for this need.

"We are reviewing and developing the Apprenticeship Standard for a golf greenkeeper. Over the past month, thanks to our colleagues at BIGGA, England Golf and the GCMA, an online survey was carried out to determine what you felt were the skills and knowledge required to become a fully competent golf greenkeeper.

"We had nearly 300 responses from the links posted just on BIGGA and GTC's websites alone. I would like to thank all of you who participated in the survey for taking the time to do so.

This feedback from employers, greenkeepers and industry is essential to ensuring we provide a quality Apprenticeship.

"Analysing all the results will take a little time, but please be assured we will take into consideration all points raised. Apart from the obvious tasks and skills already encompassed in the golf greenkeeping qualification, you have also highlighted skills and knowledge you believe a qualified golf greenkeeper should have."

Here are just some of the key suggestions arising from the survey:

- First aid, fire safety

- Attention to detail at all tasks involved
- Understand and appreciate the living environment
- Effective time management
- Good knowledge of machinery maintenance
- Good communication skills with members, visitors and other members of staff
- Good numeracy and literary skills
- Computer skills

Apart from reviewing the current skills within the Occupational Standards for a Greenkeeper and Golf Course Supervisor, the working group will also be reviewing other skills you would expect a fully competent greenkeeper to be able to carry out.

David added: "As you will all appreciate, greenkeeping requires a very broad range of skills so it's impossible to list every single requirement of the job. But rest assured that when we sit down and review the current standards, we will be further building on the skills and knowledge required to make that greenkeeper a great greenkeeper.

"When the apprentice finishes the programme, they will know how, why and when the range of operations are carried out, and you will have a great golf course as a result."

For further information on Golf Greenkeeping including the Apprenticeship contact:

David Golding, GTC Education Director – Email: david@the-gtc.co.uk Tel: 01347 838640 Mobile: 07831 222659

Or alternatively please visit www.apprenticeships.org.uk



The GTC is funded by:



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Assistant Greenkeepers

Caversham Heath Golf Club requires 2 Assistant Greenkeepers.

- Applicants must be qualified to NVQ2 or equivalent
 - Minimum 2 years golf course experience
- Competitive salary offered dependent on qualifications and experience

Please apply in writing with CV stating current salary to:

**Jon Scoones, Caversham Heath Golf Club,
Mapledurham, Reading, Berkshire, RG4 7UT.**

or email: cavershamgreens@cavershamgolf.co.uk



HEAD GREENKEEPER REDDITCH GOLF CLUB

Redditch Golf Club is a Private members Club that aspires to be "Worcestershire's finest" golf course. The course is parkland built on a clay base with excellent greens as endorsed by the STRI and having been re-laid in the 1990's to PGA specifications.

In order to build on the excellent foundations established we are now looking for an experienced and suitably qualified Head Greenkeeper to join us in order to sustain and further build on the improvements already made, in line with our course development plan. The successful candidate will have a wide range of responsibilities and be passionate about providing the best possible playing surfaces and condition of external areas to ensure we deliver memorable experiences to our members and visitors.

Working with the Club Management they must possess the following:

- Capable operation of a full range of course equipment associated with the post.
 - Experience of managing Health and Safety regulations
 - Experience of managing supplies ordering and budgets
- Experience/knowledge of effective drainage on clay based courses
 - Qualified to SVQ/NVQ level 2, aspiring to do level 3 or HNC.
 - PA1, PA2 and PA6 spraying qualifications.
 - A full UK Driving License.

. This is an excellent opportunity for the right candidate to become part of a progressive and dynamic management team. The right candidate will further their skills and training whilst motivating others to be the best they can in order to generate high levels of team spirit.

Competitive salary and terms will be offered to the right candidate.

Please forward your CV and covering letter to
info@redditchgolfclub.com by 20th May, 2014.

A fantastic opportunity has arisen to join the Greenkeeping team at Willingdon Golf Club.

This 18 hole par 69 downland course is situated on the spectacular sunshine coast in East Sussex and lies in a natural bowl on the edge of the South Downs National Park. We are currently looking to recruit a dynamic and motivated full time Greenkeeper to join our existing experienced team. We invite applications from all but ideally candidates should:

- Have NVQ Level 2 in sports turf or equivalent.
- Be a team player with a positive attitude.
- Have the ability to produce a high standard of work.
- Want to further their skills and training.

Applicants will be working directly under the Course Manager and closely with the existing team to continue to present the course to the highest possible standard. Work on the course will involve a variety of duties so this position requires an individual who is able to use their skills in all areas of course maintenance.

If joining the team on this Dr. Alister Mackenzie designed course appeals to you then please apply in writing or E-mail together with a C.V to: **Peter Negus, Course Manager, Willingdon Golf Club, Southdown Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex, BN20 9AA**

Tel: 01323 410985, Email: pnegus@willingdongolfclub.co.uk
Closing date : 14/05/2014

Laleham Golf Club – Assistant Greenkeeper

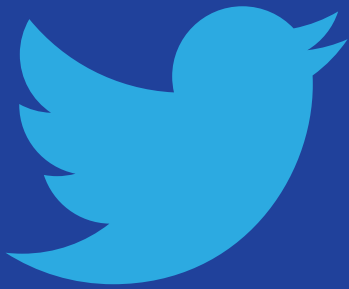
We are currently looking for an experienced and suitably qualified Greenkeeper to join our team. The successful candidate will have a wide range of responsibilities and be passionate about golf course maintenance. Working under direction from the Head Green Keeper He/She must possess the following attributes and qualifications:

- Self-motivated with a positive attitude,
- Excellent interpersonal skills.
- A strong work ethic and ability to demonstrate they can work as part of a team and as an individual.
- Good time management and communication skills.
- Be capable of operating a full range of equipment associated with the post.
 - Qualified to SVQ/NVQ level 2.
 - PA1, PA6 spraying qualifications. (PA2 desirable)
 - A full UK Driving License.

The right candidate will be given the opportunity to further their skills and training.

Please forward CV, covering letter and salary expectation to tonysharman1971@gmail.com or alternatively by post to: Tony Sharman (Head Green keeper) Laleham Golf Club, Laleham Reach, Chertsey, Surrey, KT16 8RP

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@BIGGALtd

A new page featuring the best Tweets and pics from the industry – don't forget to tag @BIGGALtd to give yourself a chance of being featured!

Our favourite tweets this month...

Ian Reeves @IanReevo
Great day at the @BIGGALtd South Coast comp yesterday. Highcliffe Castle looking spectacular!

Gordon McKie @gord_mckie
Performance management testing with STRI this morning @TheHomeofGolf #smoothgreens

WoolleyParkGolfClub @Woolleyparkgolf
Nothing like popping up the sprinklers to make it feel like summer #golf #summer

Antony Kirwan @AntzXVI
@BIGGALtd massive thanks to the members who helped on our annual maintenance evening #topstars

Matt Plested @plestee
Buckets all set for today's divot trophy. Let the greenkeepers be the winners!

Andy Clark @Clanky23
Thanks @BIGGALtd for another interesting edition of Greenkeeper International. Perfect for a rainy afternoon! #Greenkeeping

HadlowCollegeABC @HadlowABC
Good luck to all the potential Master Greenkeepers taking their exams this week

Lickey Hills golf @LickeyHillsGolf
Spread the word , August 14th is #nationalrepairyourpitchmarkday

greenkeeping @Lancastergc
First seniors open of the year. Course cut, greens cut and rolled. #golf #Greenkeeping



@IanReevo



@plestee



@Woolleyparkgolf



@AntzXVI

Here's a selection of this month's best photos. This month features Matt Plested's divot trophy (@plestee) and performance management testing by Gordon McKie (@gord_mckie).



@gord_mckie

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