

EDUCATION



The first intake at the College are pictured with from centre left to right: Course Organiser Graham Wright, the Secretary of the Welsh Golf Union, Danny Loe and the North Wales representative of the Union Bert Griffiths.

A golf greenkeeping course - City and Guilds, Phase 1, Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Management has started at the Welsh College of Horticulture, Northhap, Mold, Clwyd. It is the culmination of two years discussion between the Welsh Golf Union, the College and the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association.

This means Wales now has its own designated college. The Welsh Golf Union sponsors its member clubs to support greenkeeper training in Wales to attend courses at the College.

The response of the first course has been very encouraging with 25 greenkeepers registering, drawn from 17 golf clubs throughout the whole of Wales. The clubs, supporting the course include five of the six

premier clubs on the Welsh competition circuit - Ashburnham, Royal Porthcawl, Royal St. David's Harlech, Prestatyn and Royal Caernarfonshire (Conwy).

A key feature of the course is the close liaison with bodies associated with golf. Regular meetings are arranged to discuss the quality, content and any other matter associated with greenkeeper training within the principality, thus helping to provide a course that the governing body and the Greenkeeper Association requires for its greenkeepers in Wales.

This course is the beginning of a new era of training provision within Wales, and is set to create a higher standard of golf course management which should improve player performance at club and international level.

CONSTRUCTION COURSE SPONSORED BY ROLAWN LTD

ALDWARD Manor, York will be the venue for our first in-house construction course on March 28 and 29 entitled "The Use of Cultivated Turf in the Construction of Tees and Greens".

The course has been sponsored by Rolawn Ltd, whose offices and production fields are close to the BIGGA Headquarters near York. Rolawn's Marketing Director, Rachel Semlyen says of their sponsorship to BIGGA's Education Programme, "We are pleased to have been asked to sponsor this course as part of BIGGA's programme to improve standards and training. In the cultivated turf industry there have been many changes and developments that make construction and renovation more feasible for more greenkeepers, but only if they have knowledge and training".

The course will involve lectures by Robert Laycock, Rolawn's Technical Director and Brian D. Pierson, one of the country's leading Golf Course Constructors. A visit to Rolawn's Turf Production Fields is also included in the course.

Because of Rolawn's sponsorship we are able to offer this course inclusive of accommodation and meals at Aldward Manor for only £30.00. Places are strictly limited and early application is advisable.

There are twenty-four places available for non-residents which will include Lunch and Dinner on the 28th and Lunch on the 29th. The cost for non-residents will be £10.00.

Applications to BIGGA Headquarters, enclosing the correct remittance.

• The course delegates will receive 3 Master Greenkeeper Certification Credits.

CREDIT FOR PREVIOUS GREENKEEPING LEARNING

ELMWOOD College, Cupar, is to pilot new work to be done in enabling those who have been in the Greenkeeping Industry for a number of years to achieve a vocational qualification. Credit will be given for relevant work experience, proficiency tests, short courses and previous further education qualifications in the achievement of SCOTVEC Modules.

This new initiative is tailor made for the time-served greenkeeper who has never managed to obtain a qualification.

George Baird, who is Head of Agriculture at Elmwood College, is to co-ordinate the development of this new project, calling on the expertise of specialist college greenkeeping staff.

The new project has the objective of devising a system of accreditation of prior learning for application to greenkeeping. The development work was started in December and will run until June 1991. During this time methods of counselling and assessment will be devised to ensure that those eligible can get credit for their knowledge and skills at any level in the Industry. The

special unit at Elmwood College will be open for business early in the new years. George Baird and his colleagues can be contacted on 0334 52781.

A final word from George Baird: "There will soon be no need for anyone to say that they have no qualifications! Anyone with industrial experience will be able to get credit for it, and then they can build on what they have with further education and training. They can get this by short courses, day or block release, full-time course or even distance learning, by which they can study at home and only go to the college for top-up instruction and assessment."

CAN YOU HELP?

DAVID Blonski of the Dunkerque Horticultural College, France is looking to place pairs of greenkeeping students on British courses during the period 16 April to 11 May 1990.

If any members are willing to assist in the these placements please write direct to David at the following address: Mr D. Blonski, LEPA Horticole de Dunkerque, 1972 Rue de Lefrinckoucke BP34, 59948 Dunkerque, Cedex 2.

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For further information please contact:

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