

EDUCATION

Cont. from Page 34.

machinery eg. Leasing, hire purchase, depreciation systems. f. Describe how to complete on analytical cash book and deal with petty cash. g. Explain stock control of materials and equipment.

Interpret Research Data.

3.1 Explain the benefits of golf courses to the localities in

which they are situated: i. Acting as reserves for wildlife and plants. ii. Improving the attractiveness of an area to developers and industrialists who are relocating. 3.2 Explain the role of golf course staff in relation to the "corporate image" of the golf club from above. 3.3 Explain the roles of the main national bodies in relation to golf courses, including the R & A, PGA, Golf

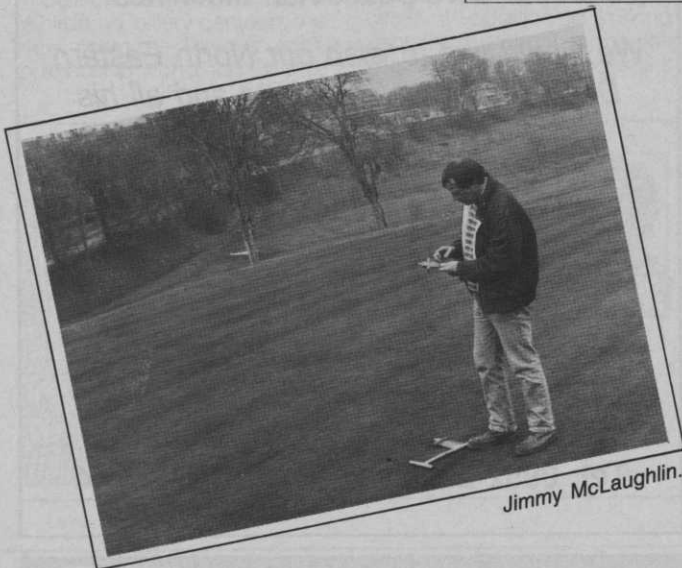
Unions and Golf Development Council, STRI, BIGGA, Sports Council, NCC.

Organisation, Management and Supervision

4.1 a. Understand the management structures of private and municipal golf clubs. b. Explain the importance of the relationships between a club's staff and its various management committees. c. Explain the role of a

Manager. d. Explain the main points of Employment Law as they affect a Manager/Supervisor: e.g. i. Health and Safety at Work including the FEPA and COSHH regulations. ii. Employees' rights including time off work, written statement of particulars of employment, minimum standards of working conditions, itemised pay statements, disciplinary and grievance procedures.

ON THE COURSE



Jimmy McLaughlin.



Jimmy McLaughlin and the clubhouse at "The Merchants".

JIMMY McLAUGHLIN — MERCHANTS OF EDINBURGH GOLF CLUB

● Jimmy McLaughlin began his greenkeeping career in 1969 as a 15-year-old apprentice at Kingsknowe G.C. in Edinburgh. Once qualified he moved to Dalmahoy Golf and Country Club on the edge of the city. After five years at Dalmahoy, he became head greenkeeper at "The Merchants", an 18-hole course set in the heart of one of Edinburgh's most popular residential areas.

The course measures 4889 yards and has a membership list of 700. Jimmy's greenkeeping staff consists of a first assistant, a tractor driver and a trainee.

“THERE are times during the winter when I feel more like the course manager for Ski Sunday than head greenkeeper of the Merchants,” says Jimmy.

The comment, made in good humour, reflected one of the demands attached to maintaining a city golf course which threads its way around Craiglockhart Hill and has a pleasing combination of hills and valleys.

When the snow begins to fall in Edinburgh, for example, many small boys in the Craiglockhart area grab their sledges and head for the Merchants' inviting slopes.

“Sledging on the course during heavy snow is such a long-held tradition that there is nothing we can do to stop it,” said

Jimmy. “We have on occasions cleared children away from the course but all you get is a completely different set of sledgers arriving a few minutes later.

“We actually don't mind too much when the course is heavily frozen but the sledges can cause some damage when the snow and ice begins to melt.”

Particularly galling for Jimmy and his team is the fact that some of the most popular sledge runs plot a path across the first and ninth fairways, straight over the eighth green, through a gap in the wall and across the 18th fairway.

“Once the snow clears we simply have to go out and tread down any ruts which have been left,” he said. “It's a fact of life for this course and most of the time the damage isn't too bad.”

Being set in a residential area with a major road running through the course, the Merchants is seen by many local residents as a valuable part of the landscape. Jimmy also views the course as an attractive area of land in addition to its more obvious sporting role.

“When we reach Friday each week I like to look back at the course and see that we've put it into top class condition for the members,” he said. “Equally, it is satisfying to see that the course adds to the local environment.”

The Merchants is a beautifully wooded course, an attribute which has been maintained despite the all too common impact of Dutch Elm Disease during the past few years.

“We lost quite a lot of trees to the

disease and had to embark on a replanting programme five years ago,” said Jimmy. “We're currently putting in oak, ash and birch and are making good progress.”

The conservationist theme has been added to in recent years with the designation of one part of the course as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), a development which Jimmy welcomes.

“The SSSI applies to a craggy part of the course which could never be played over and which is therefore left well alone,” he said. “It was found, however, that because the area hadn't been touched by either ploughs or herbicides it contained a number of flower and fauna species which weren't present anywhere else in the whole of Edinburgh.”

Jimmy's obvious enjoyment of his job and his “workplace” is perhaps explained by an experience which laid him low for the best part of nine months, some eight years ago.

“It was found that I had a cancer, thankfully one of the more treatable varieties,” he said. “Because of the lengthy period of therapy involved, I lost nine months of my life to the disease although in return I think I gained a greater appreciation of plant and wildlife.”

“There's nothing better than to be at the Merchants early on a spring morning to enjoy the full beauty of the course and its surroundings.”

● This feature is produced by Colin Ley on behalf of the INTURF Group of Companies.