

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

I would like to congratulate BIGGA on the introduction of the Master Greenkeeper scheme outlined in the December issue of Greenkeeping Management. This must be a step forward for greenkeeping. Having said that I would like to make the following observations and suggestions

I hope the Association will be democratic. As stated in paragraph one From Head Office. "The introduction of the Master Greenkeeper Certificate award for those members seeking the highest status within the profession". And not as in paragraph five. "All members of the Association will be placed in one of these categories", and: "Members not registering for the certification scheme will be placed in categories on the basis of experience alone". Members must have the freedom of choice if the scheme is for "those members".

An employee starting in greenkeeping, completing the City and Guilds course, and with four years total experience would be awarded 142 credits (136 for City and Guilds and 16

for four years experience). This would be equal to thirty five years for experience qualification. In some cases the head greenkeeper could have less credits than his assistants!

If the maximum experience allowed is thirty five years, it should be remembered at that time there were no colleges offering the qualifications we have today. I feel the credits for experience could be graduated, ie. four per year for the first ten years, five per year eleven to twenty, six per year twenty one to thirty, and seven per year from then on, this would make the scheme more attractive to the more experienced members and may encourage others to join the Association.

The recruitment pages of the December issue have thirteen adverts for course managers/head greenkeepers. Eleven of them have the word "experience" used to some degree in the advert. On this evidence alone experience is the main requirement for the job. The new scheme must reflect this to gain credibility from our employers.

The scheme does not differentiate between nine, eighteen or thirty-six hole courses,

but the Association already recognises this in the recommended wage scale.

Credits could be awarded for being in charge of a course hosting national and open championships and Euro/tour events. This must be worth extra.

No mention is made of why we are doing this job i.e. the playing of golf. More greenkeepers could be encouraged to play the game by having credits linked to handicap, i.e. one credit for twenty four and above, two for twenty three, three for twenty two and so on down the handicap scale.

The discipline of members is an important matter. For instance, the Association should reserve the right to withdraw credits from anyone that may be disciplined by section committees.

The scheme is a good idea but I feel it must be started from a broader base to encourage all members to join. There is little encouragement for the older men who have passed down their skills over the years. The colleges do a good job in their way but there is no substitute for experience, so "credits" where credit is due!

DAVID A. GALL

Dear Sir,

I regularly read your magazine with interest, especially the recruitment pages, which is why I am writing to you now.

For the past few months I have been looking for an opportunity to gain some experience of working on Continental golf courses but frankly have had no success whatsoever. In particular I was hoping to find temporary or seasonal work for the summer period and was wondering whether any of the larger golf clubs in Europe take such workers on and if they do whether a magazine such as yours hears of any vacancies.

Indeed I feel I need as much advice as I can find at the moment and would greatly appreciate any assistance you could give.

I enclose a s.a.e. for your convenience.

I.C. Butcher  
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Leamington Spa

● If you have any letters to the editor address them to: The Editor, Greenkeeping Manager, Spencer House, Swalwell, Tyne and Wear.

## PRODUCT FOCUS

### KUBOTA LAUNCH NEW TRACTOR AT ETME 2

**K**UBOTA, launched a new tractor at the European Turf Management Exhibition at Harrogate.

The Kubota L3250 is a 40 hp tractor with 32 PTO-hp and 4WD, has integral power steering as standard and is particularly suited to meet the turf maintenance needs in the

gold, sports grounds and local authority markets.

The L3250's additional horse-power, heavy duty dual clutch and gearbox provides the extra power needed for turf maintenance on banks and inclines using vertidrain or larger gang mower units. The improved linkage geometry also provides the operator with more than 100lb additional lift capacity.

The Kubota L3250 is a real workhorse but its lightweight means less ground pressure and for applications such as on golf courses special smooth profile turf tyres are available to provide complete turf protection.

The mechanical shuttle transmission offers 8 forward and 7 reverse gears and creep speed as standard for vertidrain operations. The partially synchronised transmission enables the operator to bring the tractor up to full speed quickly and easily for road travel.

With the operator in mind the main shift and shuttle shift levers are mounted on the steering column which provides more leg room and makes shifting quicker and easier.

### HOVERDRY'S NEW PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT

**T**HE adoption of the Hoverdry by the PGA European Tour, at St Andrews and Gleneagles testifies to the proven ability of the machine to cope with the severest of rainstorms while leaving the finest grass playing surfaces unscuffed and unscathed.

Operating on the hover principle, the one-man lightweight machine of only 80 lbs is able to combat the heaviest of downpours to remove standing water at a rate of 60 gallons per minute; its 1.5 inch hose, which can be supplied in whatever number of 50 foot lengths the customer requires, then pumps the water out of harm's way; and its simple trolley attachment makes it easy to transport when not in use.

At the specific request of golf course customers over the past year, Hoverdry have also developed a way of removing water from bunkers, which, with a conventional pump, has been hitherto impossible.

By attaching skids to the bottom of the machine, the Hoverdry is now able to pump out bunkers and with hardly any disturbance to the sand.



The Kubota L3250 in action.