

# INTERNATIONAL GREENKEEPERS GAZETTE

April 2025 Issue #12

[www.internationalgreenkeepersforhire.com](http://www.internationalgreenkeepersforhire.com) | The international hub for greenkeepers, groundstaff and volunteers

## MEET THE MEMBERS SIMON MOORE & RHYS NORVILLE

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In light of National Apprenticeship Week 2025, learn about why we support apprenticeships as part of our ongoing commitment to encouraging growth and opportunity in the industry.

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# EDITOR'S WORD



Welcome back to our returning readers and welcome to those picking up the magazine for the first time. April 2025 marks the 6th year for IGfH, and while we've continued to make progress, there's still more for us to improve. One of the key functions of IGfH is to connect those looking for work with employers; as you can appreciate, this does take a significant amount of time. We're currently exploring the idea of a 'portal' for the Turf Passport to help streamline this process and connect employers and turf professionals directly, which will not only save time but allow us to work on other projects and continue to provide free education as we have so far.

While on the subject of free education, I also want to announce that we're working closely with the GroundsFest team to launch the GroundsFest Academy. This initiative will begin with free, educational, hands-on, practical days that will be held around the UK over the year. Stay tuned for more details will follow but for now, keep an eye on [www.groundsfestacademy.com](http://www.groundsfestacademy.com).

As always, a big thanks to our sponsors, Howardson Group, Kersten UK, and Mountain View Seeds. Without our sponsors, we wouldn't exist in the capacity we do today, from attending careers fairs at schools and colleges to spending the evenings emailing employers with CVs and contact details—they make this possible.

The last note from me is that we've recently spent time creating articles, videos, and resources for those looking for visas or sponsorships. There's a minefield of information online at the moment, a significant portion of which has little to no relevance. We've gathered the information that's bespoke to Greenkeeping and Grounds and shared it on our website. Let us know if you have any specifics you'd like us to research!

## Bradley Tennant

Bradley Tennant

Founding Member of International Greenkeepers for Hire & Editor  
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International  
Greenkeepers Gazette:  
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International  
Greenkeepers For Hire

# INTERNATIONAL GREENKEEPERS FOR HIRE

## ABOUT US

The International hub for greenkeepers, groundstaff and volunteers. To unite greenkeepers, promote the industry, and help share the art of greenkeeping with others. The organisation is made by greenkeepers, for greenkeepers.

**EMAIL:** [Internationalgreenkeepers@gmail.com](mailto:Internationalgreenkeepers@gmail.com)

## CAREERS IN OUR INDUSTRY

- Greenkeeper/Groundstaff
- Tree surgeon/surveyor
- Pitch and course construction
- Sales representatives
- Turf farms
- Lecturer or Trainer
- Manufacturer
- Environment management
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# Meet the Member:

## Simon Moore

Simon Moore is the first of our featured members in this issue. After an uninspiring stint at a retail job, Simon made the switch to the turfcare industry with a ground maintenance job. He's now the South West Area Sales Manager at Fleet Line Markers, and no two days are the same. Here, he shares how he found his current job, why COVID was the most challenging career problem he's ever faced, and his favorite TV shows to watch after a long day at work.

### What inspired you to pursue a career in turf?

I'd worked in retail for a while after leaving school and college. I didn't like being inside all day and wanted something where I was out and about. I then got a grounds maintenance job which started me off in this industry. I started doing gardens, then schools and sports pitches. I love football and as I wasn't good enough to have a career in that, this was as close as I could get!

### How did you find your current job?

I was a visitor at Saltex and got chatting with the Fleet guys on the stand. They said there was a job going in the South West. I sent my CV off that night!

### What is your favourite part about working on sports turf?

Through working with Fleet, I get to meet some great people. My job involves going to clubs across the South West, and this meant I got to meet the guys at Plymouth Argyle. As an Argyle fan who lives in Wiltshire (obviously a glory hunter), I don't meet many others from the Green Army, so I was loving it. They gave me the opportunity to help on a match day. That was 8 years ago and I'm still doing it now.

To get on the same pitch as my team is incredible. One of my first games as match day staff was Argyle v Liverpool. I was divotting the pitch with Argyle fans behind me singing loudly and working my way towards the away end where Liverpool fans were singing "You'll Never Walk Alone". I got goosebumps. Not many people get to experience something like that.

### What's the most challenging problem you've faced while working on sports turf, and how did you handle it?

COVID 19 was the biggest problem for me. During



**"COVID 19 was the biggest problem for me. During lockdown, I realised how much I enjoyed my job. I missed being out and about, seeing people, and all the sports."**

lockdown, I realised how much I enjoyed my job. I missed being out and about, seeing people, and all the sports.

### If you could switch roles with any grounds/greenkeeping team for a day, whose job would you want to try and why?

I would like to swap with Bradley Tennant for a day as he gets to do some interesting stuff! Or I'd like to do more matchdays at different stadiums. I've helped out at some other clubs already and you always learn something new.

### How do you unwind and relax after a challenging day of work?

If I'm not watching football somewhere, then most

evenings I spend at home with my family. My daughter Mollie is six, so we'll watch Disney films or something until the sport is on. I enjoy watching football, rugby, cricket and darts.

If there's no sport on, I'll normally watch something funny. The Office, Phoenix Nights, Ted Lasso, Alan Partridge, and so on.

### Share a funny or unexpected moment that happened during your career.

An unexpected moment for me was last year when I received an award for services to the industry from the High Sheriff of Wiltshire.

### What's the most rewarding aspect of your current job role?

The people in this industry are brilliant. There are some top people in the South West. The grounds teams in the schools, universities, football clubs, and rugby clubs are quality. I've made some good friends.

### What's one piece of greenkeeping equipment you couldn't live without, and how does it make your job easier or more enjoyable?

The kombi line marker. It's been around for 30 years but



it's always evolving to keep up to date with groundsmans needs.

### Who has had the biggest impact on you in your career role and why?

Iain Courage is the sales director at Fleet. He's always encouraged me and taught me a lot. In fact, Iain is the man responsible for giving me a job at Fleet. (All my customers know who to blame now!)

### What advice do you have for new people looking to join the industry?

It's a brilliant industry to work in, if you can get through the winter working outside, everyone is jealous in the summer. I know I keep saying it, but the people you meet in this industry are great.

### Finally, what message or insight would you like to share with others about the role of organisations like International Greenkeepers for Hire in connecting professionals with opportunities abroad?

Talk to everyone. I've met a lot of people through work, trade shows, and networking events. You just never know what's going to happen in the future, so stay open to all opportunities.

Simon Moore





IGFH members, we'd love to hear from you!

Interested in being interviewed for our Meet the Members feature? We interview turf professionals based all over the world, with a special interest in those who have travelled overseas for work.

Email Laura at :  
[editorinternationalgreenkeepers.com](mailto:editorinternationalgreenkeepers.com) with a brief introduction to yourself, your experience, and your current job role.



"It's a brilliant industry to work in, if you can get through the winter working outside, everyone is jealous in the summer. The people you meet are great."





# Why IGFH Supports Apprenticeships in Grounds Management

## NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK 2025

*"We support National Apprenticeship Week as part of our ongoing commitment to encouraging growth and opportunity in the industry."*

National Apprenticeship Week promotes hands-on learning and professional development in entry-level roles across a range of industries, including greenkeeping and grounds management.

Apprenticeships provide a direct pathway for new talent to build essential skills while working alongside experienced professionals, continuing to strengthen our industry with well-trained and knowledgeable individuals.

At International Greenkeepers, we see apprenticeships as the foundation for a successful career in turf management. They offer real-world experience that we can't gain from textbooks alone, giving apprentices the opportunity to learn about environmental factors, machinery operation, course or pitch maintenance techniques, and addressing common issues in a practical setting. With the structure and guidance of an apprenticeship, they can develop the technical skills and the problem-solving abilities needed to adapt to the challenges of the job.

We support National Apprenticeship Week as part of our ongoing commitment to encouraging growth and opportunity in the industry. Investing in the next generation helps us strengthen the profession and deliver results to a continually high standard in course and pitch maintenance worldwide.

Apprenticeships not only benefit the people involved but also contribute to the overall quality of green spaces everywhere. You can learn more about employing an apprentice on the Gov.UK website [here](https://www.gov.uk).











## A HANDS-ON LEARNING EXPERIENCE AT OUR THIRD ANNUAL STUDENT MASTERCLASS AT THE CAVERSHAM

On January 30, 2025, we returned to The Caversham to host the third Masterclass of the academic year for the Level 2 Sports Turf Operative (Lantra) students at Wiltshire College & University Centre.

After reviewing feedback from previous sessions, we refined our approach to make the day even more interactive. Our goal was for the students to be able to apply what they learned in a real-world setting.

This session covered a broad range of topics, including bunker maintenance, machinery pre-start and post-operation checks, proper equipment cleaning and storage, data collection, hole changing, and measuring green speeds with a stimp meter.

Rather than focusing solely on theory, we gave the students plenty of opportunity to get hands-on experience, reinforcing key techniques they'll use in their careers.

The day began with a welcome talk, covering health and safety, course etiquette, and an introduction from Jon

Scoones, who shared his background and offered insights into maintaining bunkers and water features.

The morning then moved into practical demonstrations, starting with machinery pre-start checks before the students practiced different bunker raking techniques. They learned the importance of attention to detail, and how the direction of raking and proper rake placement affect playability and course presentation.

Following this, the students worked through the washing down of machines and post-operation checks before breaking for lunch. The afternoon session split the group in two, with one group focusing on morning dew and debris removal before switching or brushing and mowing a green, and the other changing golf hole positions and measuring green speeds.

After rotating groups, we were onto the final activities: repairing damaged turf and positioning tee markers. The session wrapped up with a demonstration of how to determine green speeds using a stimp meter and prism gauge, where students could see the impact of cut quality on performance.

Throughout the day, students were able to build on their knowledge of environmental and safety regulations, governing body rules, machinery operation, and the effects of climate on turf conditions. They practiced skills such as preparing and maintaining equipment, managing soil moisture levels, and repairing sports turf surfaces.

We want to extend a huge thank you to Jon Scoones and the team at The Caversham for their ongoing support. They consistently go above and beyond to create an environment where students feel welcomed and can learn from professionals who take pride in their work.

By the end of the day, every student left having gained new skills and connections. And that's what it's all about: fun and engaging education.



*"By the end of the day, every student left having gained new skills and connections. And that's what it's all about: fun and engaging education."*

Clockwise starting top left:  
 - Bunker raking practice  
 - Lunch provided by the club  
 - Learning how to set a cup  
 - Pre-start checks in the shed



# MEET THE MEMBER:

## What inspired you to pursue a career in turf?

My love of sport. I enjoyed working outdoors and I loved playing golf and rugby. When I was offered a summer position as a greenkeeper at Newport Golf Club, it was perfect for me. I was getting paid to work outdoors and the hours meant I could play lots of golf after work.

## How did you find your current job?

After 10 years working as a greenkeeper, I moved into a sales role. I spent three years at an amenity sales company and five years at an organic fertiliser manufacturer. After this, I decided it was the right time to use all of my experience and knowledge to set up my own company: ReGen Amenity Limited. At ReGen Amenity, we believe in putting our customers first. We aim to advise, supply, and deliver high-quality products to suit the individual needs of our customers, whilst assisting you in producing unrivalled turf quality.

## What is your favorite part about working in sports turf?

Feedback from customers after we have helped them to solve a problem. That really makes me feel a part of their team.

## What's the most challenging problem you've faced while working on sports turf, and how did you handle it?

I think the biggest problem in sports turf for the modern greenkeeper/groundsman is customer expectation. Expectations have soared in recent years, whereas budgets, resources, and labour have not! I think the best way to overcome this is through communication, explaining decisions, and trying to manage those expectations. I often tell the people I work with, 'It's impossible to please everyone!'

## If you could switch roles with any grounds/greenkeeping team for a day, whose job would you want to try and why?

I would love to go to Tottenham Hotspur stadium and see the conversion of the pitch from an NFL game back to football. The time-lapse video of this is just incredible.

## How do you unwind and relax after a day of work?

# Rhys Norville

Rhys Norville is our second featured member in this issue. Rhys has worked in the industry for nearly two decades and currently operates his own company: ReGen Amenity Limited. Here, he talks about his inspiration to pursue a turf role, the person who has had the biggest impact on his career, and what advice he'd give to people looking to enter the industry.



**'Grab any opportunity you have with both hands. You never know who you might meet or what you might learn along the way.'**

have two young children so there is very little time to relax! My new role has allowed me to have more flexibility and given me a better work/life balance which is invaluable to me and my family.

**Share a funny or unexpected moment that happened during your career.**

When volunteering at The 2014 Seniors Open at Royal Porthcawl, we would work split shifts, morning set up and evening prep. Every evening, Bernhard Langer's caddie would be out rolling golf balls across the greens. By the third day, a few of us joked and said to him, 'You must know the greens by now.' He turned to us and said, 'You can never be too careful when you are trusted with another man's balls.' We erupted into laughter as you can imagine.

## What's the most rewarding aspect of your current role?

Helping people. Whether that's recommending products or offering advice following a data collection or soil analysis, I get great satisfaction from helping people to make informed decisions to improve their turf surfaces.

## What's one piece of greenkeeping equipment you couldn't live without?

I'm going to be cheeky and go for three. I think a moisture meter is paramount; it takes the guesswork out of decision-making around moisture management. Secondly, a sprayer. Like we talked about earlier with customer expectations being so high, the sprayer is now an invaluable piece of kit as it can really help turf managers dial in their surfaces. Thirdly, the Procore; it's such a versatile piece of equipment that can be used with minimal disturbance and maximum efficiency.

## Who has had the biggest impact on you in your career role and why?

I owe a lot to Angus Macloed. He gave me my first position at Newport Golf Club and really gave me the enthusiasm to enjoy greenkeeping, and this is where my passion started. Secondly, I owe a lot to Paul Handy; he took over as Head Greenkeeper when Angus left. Paul really pushed me and gave me a lot of opportunities to get my qualifications, supported me to volunteer at events such as the 2010 Ryder Cup, various Opens through the BIGGA Support Team, The Seniors Open at Royal Porthcawl, and very rarely stopped me from attending workshops or seminars. This support helped me towards achieving Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year.

## What advice do you have for people joining the industry?

Grab any opportunity you have with both hands, whether that's completing a training course, volunteering at an event, or even attending a seminar. You never know who you might meet or what you might learn along the way. I have been in the industry for nearly 20 years and I am still learning new things all the time.

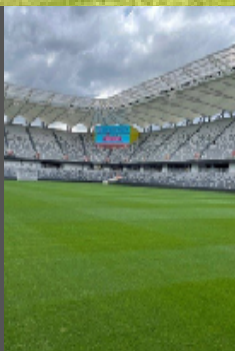
## Finally, what message or insight would you like to share with others about the role of organisations like International Greenkeepers for Hire in connecting professionals with opportunities abroad?

I was lucky enough to study in America at the University of Massachusetts and spend a year working at Remuera Golf Club in New Zealand. These were two massive highlights in the early part of my career. I learned so much and have experienced things I will never forget.



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# GroundsFest Education Fund Helps Student Land Career in Grounds Management

*The GroundsFest Education Fund is already making a significant impact on the next generation of grounds management professionals, with several students already benefitting from its support.*

The most recent success story is George Legg, a student studying Sports Turf NVQ Level 2 at Wiltshire College and an Apprentice at Stanley Park Sports Ground. Thanks to the Fund, George was able to finance essential qualifications that played a key role in him securing a full-time position at Stanley Park Sports Ground after completing his Level 2 qualification.

One of the key certifications George was able to pursue through the Education Fund was the PA1 qualification in the Principles of Safe Handling and Application of Pesticides, as well as the PA6 qualification for the Safe Use of Pesticides with Handheld Applicators.

These qualifications are crucial for anyone working in grounds management, particularly when it comes to managing fertilisers and ensuring the safe application of pesticides—a vital aspect of maintaining sports turf and other landscapes.

“The Education Fund helped massively,” George explains. “Once I had those qualifications on my CV, it was a massive boost. It made me more qualified to do certain things and definitely made me more employable.”

He continues, “I needed some extra funding to be able to do these courses, and the PA6 is especially important for grounds management with fertilisers and calibrations. It linked in perfectly with everything I was studying. Having those extra qualifications was big for me and for Stanley Park, especially because they didn’t have to fund them themselves.”

The Education Fund not only enabled George to obtain these qualifications, but it also allowed him to gain

valuable skills without burdening his employer, Stanley Park Sports Ground, with the costs. This, according to George, is key in a time when the grounds management industry is facing a shortage of qualified professionals.

“The GroundsFest Education Fund is great for creating opportunities for people like me,” he says. “It’s crucial because we are seeing more and more people drop out of the industry. There’s already a lack of groundstaff, and without funding or support, it becomes much harder for people to progress.”

In January, George will begin his new role as a full-time Groundsperson at Stanley Park, where he will be responsible for day-to-day tasks such as line marking, mowing, calibration, and operating machinery safely. Looking ahead, George hopes to continue advancing in his career. “I’d like to eventually become a Grounds Manager,” he shares.

Christopher Bassett, Event Director of GroundsFest, expressed his excitement about George’s success and the broader impact of the Education Fund.

“This is fantastic news,” he says. “We are currently working hard on entering the next phase of the Education Fund, which will see the profits from the event reaching an even wider range of people in the industry. Watch this space.”

The GroundsFest Education Fund is an integral part of the event’s mission to invest in the future of the grounds management industry. The Fund is helping to address the challenges facing the sector, from skills shortages to the declining number of young people entering the industry. Through initiatives like this, GroundsFest is playing a pivotal role in shaping the next generation of industry leaders.

For more information, visit [www.groundsfest.com](http://www.groundsfest.com). You can also follow GroundsFest on X, Facebook, & Instagram @GroundsFest for much more news, insights, and views.

George Legg, student at Wiltshire College and Stanley Park Sports Ground Apprentice, recipient of the GroundsFest Educational Fund





# Edgmond Bowling Club Wins Best Kept Green Shropshire Award 2024

Edgmond Bowling Club has been awarded the title of Best Kept Green in Shropshire 2024, a competition sponsored by leading turf maintenance brands Dennis and SISIS. The accolade marks a milestone for the club, which is also celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, and highlights the dedication and skill of its greenkeeper, Peter Leath.

The Best Kept Green competition was launched in 2021, in response to the remarkable efforts of bowling clubs and their greenkeepers during the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The initiative, supported by Dennis and SISIS, aims to improve the standard of greens across the county, recognising the hard work of greens teams and providing them with valuable feedback to enhance their maintenance programmes. Each year, the competition grows in popularity, with a record number of clubs entering in 2024.

Peter, a greenkeeper with 47 years of experience, joined Edgmond Bowling Club just before the pandemic and quickly found himself responsible for the care of the green, which was in need of attention. Reflecting on those early days, he recalls, "The green was in quite a bad condition. During Covid, I spent a lot of time managing to feed it and improve its health."

Drawing on his greenkeeping background, Peter implemented a rigorous maintenance routine, including verticutting and aerating the green, to encourage healthy growth. He also invested in a SISIS Supaturfman, using it up to 16 times a year. His efforts have paid off, with Edgmond's green now widely praised for its smoothness and playability.

Edgmond Bowling Club's win this year, tied on points with Cleobury Mortimer but edging ahead

thanks to a perfect 10/10 score for the roll of the woods, is a fitting tribute to its 50th anniversary.

Peter's attention to detail is key to the green's success. He spends around 240 hours a year maintaining it, mowing three times a week in the summer and continuing regular care even through the winter months. His advice to other greenkeepers? "Make sure your mower is adjusted correctly, and cut the grass consistently. It makes all the difference."

Phil Scott, Chairman of the Shropshire Crown Green Bowling Association, praised Peter's work and spoke about the growing success of the Best Kept Green competition. "We started these awards to recognise the often-overlooked work of greenkeepers in our county. Since the competition began, the standard of greens in Shropshire dramatically."



Edgmond Bowling Club has been awarded the title of Best Kept Green in Shropshire 2024, a competition sponsored by Dennis and SISIS.

## IGFH Supports Young Talent At The Melksham Oak School Careers Day

Melksham Oak Community School recently invited International Greenkeepers for Hire to take part in a mock interview session, offering Year 10 and Year 12 students a valuable opportunity to practice interview techniques for future job applications. Bradley Tennant represented IGFH alongside 25 other professionals, who were seated at individual tables to conduct mock interviews with students on rotation throughout the course of the day.

The interviews were designed to imitate real-life experiences, with each student given 20 minutes to discuss their application and answer a set of questions. The goal was to provide constructive feedback on the students' performance, covering everything from their tone and speech to body language and confidence. Students received scores out of five for each category, with notes on how to improve.

The final session was specifically for the Year 12 students, who had prepared actual CVs in advance. These interviews lasted 40 minutes and allowed discussions to be more in-depth. Bradley and the other volunteers adopted the role of employers within industries that interested each student, offering tailored advice on how to improve their applications.

Beyond the interviews themselves, Bradley used the careers day as an opportunity to introduce sports turf to students as a career path. He spoke to every student he interviewed about the industry, explaining the qualifications and routes available. He also handed out leaflets detailing how to enter the profession.

Speaking about planting the idea of a career many students may not have previously considered, Bradley said: "The sports turf and grounds maintenance sector is still experiencing a labour shortage across the UK, which makes it more essential than ever to introduce these careers to

young people. I enjoyed being able to offer practical advice but also open the students' eyes to opportunities they might not have thought about before."

Initiatives like this help to broaden young people's understanding of the job market. The primary focus was on interview preparation, but the event also gave IGFH the opportunity to promote the sports turf industry to the next generation of potential professionals.



Top image: The 20+ professionals involved in the mock interview day  
This image: Bradley interviewing a student in the school hall





## EDUCATIONAL CARD #47

MADE BY GREENKEEPERS, FOR GREENKEEPERS

# CALIBRATION OF A SPREADER

Calibrating a spreader ensures the right amount of fertiliser, seed, or top-dressing mix is applied to your turf. This process can save time and resources, and prevent under or over-application.

### Spreaders with a Calibration Key

Many spreaders have a numbered or lettered setting. To check if your spreader is set correctly, some models come with a calibration key. Insert the key into the gated slot inside the spreader to see if the setting matches. If not, adjust the spreader until it sits on the correct setting.

### Manual Calibration

If your spreader doesn't come with a key, you can calibrate it manually. Start by checking the size and application rate listed on the fertiliser or seed bag. Then, cut out a square 1m<sup>2</sup> from tarpaulin, an old sheet, or a similar

material. Place this on the ground, make a regular pass over it with the spreader, and gather the material that was applied. Weigh the collected amount, subtracting the weight of the sheet. Compare this with the recommended rate. If it's too heavy, reduce the setting slightly; if it's spot on, you're ready to cover the whole area at the correct rate.



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## SISIS Machines Transform Greens at Shiskine Golf and Tennis Club

Maintaining a golf course as unique and picturesque as Shiskine Golf and Tennis Club demands equipment that delivers exceptional results with precision and reliability.

For Head Greenkeeper Stewart Fotheringham, the introduction of two SISIS machines—the Maxislit and the Multislit—has been nothing short of revolutionary. These tools have transformed the condition of the course's greens and fairways, setting a new standard for drainage, firmness, and overall playability, even in the face of challenging weather and high foot traffic.

Maintaining the course's stunning greens and fairways has always been a labour of love for Stewart. He began his career at Shiskine, on the Isle of Arran, in 1982 as a 15-year-old apprentice and, 42 years later, his passion for the course remains as strong as ever.

"If you've ever been here, you'll understand why I've stayed so long," Stewart explains. "The location is incredible, with breathtaking views. The members love it, and we see plenty of visitors in the summer. But with all that play, and the wind that hits us from every direction, the course takes a beating."

To keep the course in peak condition, Stewart and his team recently introduced two SISIS machines: the Maxislit for fairways and the Multislit for greens. The results, according to Stewart, have been transformative. Shiskine's seaside links course is a mix of quirky features and challenging terrain. Regular aeration is essential to manage drainage and ensure the course can handle heavy play and unpredictable weather.

"The advice to incorporate slit tining came from our agronomist, Gordon Irvine," says Stewart. "Gordon explained that slit tining over winter offers unique benefits, so we decided to invest in the Maxislit and Multislit from SISIS."

The SISIS Maxislit, a tractor-mounted deep slitter, is used on fairways to enhance drainage and reduce compaction. "We use the Maxislit about three times between November and January," Stewart says. The angle of the tines and the spiral design allow deep penetration with minimal surface disturbance, and it's simple to operate—just hitch it to the tractor and go."

On the greens, the SISIS Multislit, a tractor-mounted deep slitting lawn aerator, has also worked wonders. "We've only had the Multislit for a year, but the difference is remarkable," Stewart notes. "After just a few uses, the greens are firmer and much drier. During Storm Darragh, we had 60mm of rain, and there wasn't a single puddle on any of the greens. Before using the Multislit, we'd have seen standing water everywhere."

For Stewart, the investment in SISIS machinery has been transformative. "If you're struggling with soft greens or poor drainage, the Multislit is a must-have. It's transformed our greens in no time. The Maxislit has been just as effective on our fairways. I'd recommend these machines to any greenkeeper—they're simple, efficient, and deliver fantastic results."

For further information or a no obligation demonstration, contact SISIS on 01332 824 777 or visit [www.sisis.com](http://www.sisis.com).



SISIS Machines Transform Greens and Fairways at Shiskine Golf and Tennis Club.



# THE NEW YOUTH MOBILITY SCHEME COULD OPEN DOORS TO EUROPE FOR UK CITIZENS

If you're a greenkeeper in the UK and are keen to expand your career beyond British shores, the proposed youth mobility scheme could be exactly what you need to access jobs across Europe.

If it's approved, this scheme will allow Brits aged 18 to 30 to live and work in EU countries for up to three years, mirroring agreements the UK already has with Australia and several other nations.

After years of post-Brexit restrictions limiting access to European work opportunities, this could change the game when it comes to traveling and working in Europe within the greenkeeping and grounds management industry.

Before Brexit, it was fairly easy to find work in Europe as a British citizen. With the UK's EU membership, we were free to move between the UK and the continent and could accept jobs in Spain, Portugal, France, or Germany without complicated visa requirements.

But since leaving the EU, the door has largely been shut. While it's still possible to get a job in Europe, these offers now often come with red tape and expensive visa applications, as well as employer sponsorship requirements that are off-putting for job applicants and clubs and venues overseas.

This proposed scheme could break down the barriers

that grounds care professionals are currently up against when looking for jobs overseas. If the scheme is introduced, it'll allow young British workers to take up positions at golf courses, sports stadiums, and resorts across the EU without the current bureaucratic hurdles.

Given the growing demand for skilled greenkeepers in European countries with strong golf and sports industries, this could be an ideal time for professionals in the UK to explore new opportunities overseas and gain international experience.

Taking your knowledge and skills from the UK to European destinations has multiple benefits. Overseas courses often have different turf types and climates, requiring their own maintenance techniques, so you'll be able to expand your skill sets and become more well-rounded in your role.

Working in warmer climates like Spain or Portugal, for example, will require you to take a different approach to irrigation and pest management than in the UK. Exposure to these variations could help you grow in your career and set you apart in a competitive job market. Plus, anyone working outdoors in the UK will tell you that it's tough going, so weather is

a big attraction for Brits considering a job particularly in Southern Europe.

Employers in Europe could also benefit from being able to hire UK greenkeepers without having to jump through dozens of hoops or make a big upfront investment in their new staff. Many European golf clubs and sports venues already struggle to find experienced professionals, so this agreement could fill those gaps.

If you're a Brit working in a turf management role and you're currently feeling stuck due to limited job options at home, this scheme (if it goes ahead) could be exactly the news you were hoping to hear. Not only would it open doors to a wider range of roles, but it could also give you a fresh perspective on your career development.

Once you've gained experience abroad, you'll open yourself up to better job prospects back in the UK, whether because you're standing out in future applications or you've built valuable international connections.

We still have questions that are yet to be answered about how the scheme would be structured. There's a good chance that the EU will push for healthcare provisions

or caps on the number of participants, and the UK government will have to weigh the political pressures against economic benefits.

With all that said, what is clear is the potential for UK greenkeepers to gain back some of the European access they lost post-Brexit.

If you're considering a move from the UK to another country in Europe if the scheme is approved, it's never too early to start researching your options.

The proposal for the scheme is set to be presented at a summit in London on May 19, which means those eligible may be able to work abroad as early as this year, depending on how quickly the scheme is implemented (assuming it's approved).

If you're keen to work in the EU, keep an eye on our Facebook, LinkedIn, and website, as we'll keep our members updated with news about the scheme. In the meantime, it's worth researching potential destinations and connecting with European employers, so you're well-prepared for a potential move later in the year. If the agreement goes ahead, the best opportunities will probably be snapped up quickly.

Image 1: Koninklijke Racing Club Genk, Belgium  
Image 2: Camiral Golf & Wellness, Barcelona





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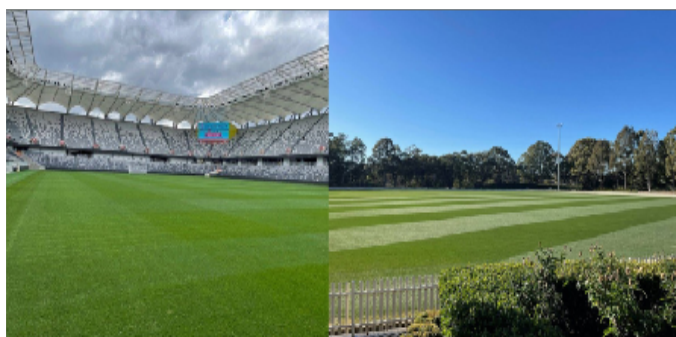


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