The R&A Greenkeeping Scholarship Programme

Wendy Cole
Manager – Sustainability

FEGGA Development Roadshow, Slovenia
14 November 2017
The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews

- Founded in 1754
- 2,400 Members worldwide
The R&A

- Formed in 2004 to take on governance role and commercial activities
R&A Governance jurisdiction

Rules, Amateur Status & Equipment Standards
Investment back into the game

• Enabled by the ongoing commercial success of The Open Championship  
  www.theopen.com

• Delivered by a ‘Working for Golf’ programme total annual spend of £5 million channelled through affiliated organisations in 138 countries

• Global projects to get more people playing more golf in more places more often  
  www.randa.org
Working for Golf investment channels
Working for Golf: Advocacy for sustainability

Promote the sustainability of golf facilities and their environment through world class leadership, awareness and technology.

1. Governance
   Develop a comprehensive, inclusive and modern approach to working and interpreting the Rules of the sport and to ensure their relevance to all golfers.

2. The Open
   Further establish The Open as a pre-eminent sporting event that provides a world class experience for players, commercial partners and fans.

3. Commercial
   Develop enhanced revenue streams including commercial models for Senior Open Championship and Women’s British Open.

4. Amateur Golf
   Preserve amateur golf and develop a robust environment for elite amateur golf including world class championships and strong links to education.

5. Relationships
   Establish deep, connected and valued relationships with our home affiliates, the USGA, professional tours and major golf nations.

6. Development
   Enhance golf’s appeal globally working through and with our affiliates by providing services, expertise and resources appropriate to their various needs.

7. Sustainability
   Promote the sustainability of golf facilities and their environment through world class leadership, awareness and technology.
The R&A operates a dedicated scholarship scheme recognising the importance of the next generation of greenkeeping professionals.
R&A Greenkeeping Scholarship Programme

Started in 2004 with single Chinese Scholar at Elmwood College

Programme to date:

✓ 283 Scholars
✓ 27 countries
✓ £820,880 spend
R&A Greenkeeping Scholarship Programme

Myerscough College (England) and SRUC Elmwood (Scotland) currently the only education establishments where Scholarships are awarded.

The R&A also has an awards scheme with African Turf Academy in South Africa.

The Scholarship provides a financial contribution towards the costs of higher level education, but the Programme has evolved to provide Scholars with some unique opportunities.
What does a Greenkeeping Scholarship offer?

• A direct financial contribution towards education fees
• A tour of the R&A Clubhouse, St Andrews
• Study visit to Askernish Golf Club
• A chance to assist the greenkeeping team in the run up to, and during, The Open
• A behind the scenes tour on-site at The Open
What does a Greenkeeping Scholarship offer?

- The opportunity to assist the greenkeeping teams at various European Tour events
- An annual professional networking event at BTME Harrogate
- Access to dedicated digital communications platforms shared by current and past R&A Greenkeeping Scholars around the globe
R&A Scholars’ Stories

Stephen Lawlor
“Askernish... A unique experience”
The company was fantastic, the seminars were engaging and thought provoking, and the golf course was unique.

Tom Coulson
“I found the course design work with Tom very interesting and very challenging and I learnt a lot from it.”

Kyle McClung
“Askernish is an experience I will never forget. The golf course, and landscape itself, was inspiring but the scholars that I shared the week with were what made the trip memorable for me.”
R&A Scholars’ Stories

Conor Hennessy
“Standing in the guard of honour receiving applause from the crowd was really emotional and a truly unforgettable moment in my life.”

Frank Aherne
“A once in a lifetime experience and one that I shall cherish for the rest of my life.”

Lee Burton
“A fantastic experience and one I will never forget.”
European Tour & other events 2017

- SMBC Singapore Open 2017, Sentosa Golf Club, January
- BMW PGA Championship, Wentworth, May
- The Amateur Championship, Royal St Georges & Prince's, June
- Alstom de France, Le Golf National, July
- RICOH British Womens, Kingsbarns, August
- Rolex Series Nedbank Sun City, November
R&A Scholars’ Stories

Graeme Davidson
“Volunteering at The Singapore Open was a career defining moment for me. The chance to work at the Asian Tour’s flagship event and network with other greenkeepers from around the world was an unbelievable opportunity.”

SMBC Singapore Open, Sentosa Golf Club, Singapore

Jack Hawkes
“This was my first tournament experience and what a joy it was, from the moment I arrived to the last day. I learnt every day, made new connections in the industry whom I would also call friends.”

Alstom de France, Le Golf National, Paris
Networking online
Networking online
Academic Achievement
How do we choose an R&A Greenkeeping Scholar?

The selection process for the programme takes place annually, consisting of a staggered process of application, interview and candidate feedback. The decision to award a scholarship is based on a number of criteria including:

- Academic performance
- Career aspirations
- Extra-curricular industry involvement
- Individual situation
- Tutor recommendation and support
## R&A Scholars’ Stories

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scholar</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Derek Daly</td>
<td>Course Tutor</td>
<td>Silver Lakes Academy, South Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Hutchinson</td>
<td>Sustainability Executive</td>
<td>BIGGA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Katie Kelly</td>
<td>Sportsturf Lecturer</td>
<td>Myerscough College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neville Wenhold</td>
<td>Superintendent</td>
<td>Leopard Creek CC, South Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhys Butler</td>
<td>Course Manager</td>
<td>Royal St David’s GC, Wales</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jonathan Wall</td>
<td>Golf Course Manager</td>
<td>BRG Ruby Tree Golf Resort, Vietnam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gudbjartur Asgeirsson</td>
<td>First Assistant Greenkeeper</td>
<td>Keilir Golf Course, Iceland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matt Byers</td>
<td>Tournament Operations</td>
<td>PGA Tour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Craig Cameron</td>
<td>Head Greenkeeper</td>
<td>St Leon Rot, Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kristel Mülle-Vaik</td>
<td>Course Manager</td>
<td>Niitvälja Golf Club, Estonia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Wing</td>
<td>Regional Agronomist</td>
<td>STRI</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The R&A is committed to working for golf and supports the growth of the sport internationally and the development and management of sustainable golf facilities. The R&A operates with the consent of 152 organisations from amateur and professional golf and on behalf of over 30 million golfers in 138 countries.