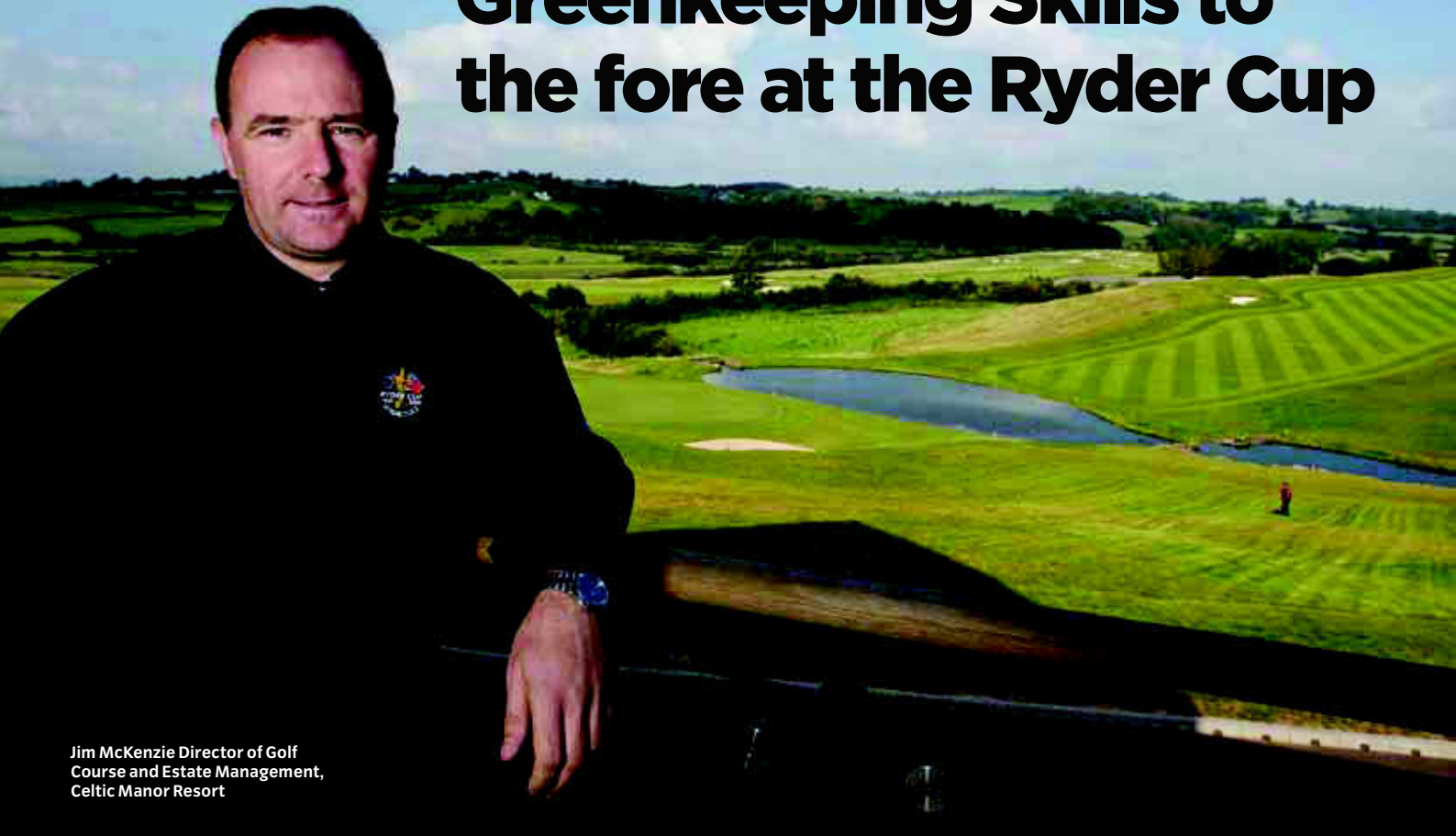


Celtic Manor Greenkeeping Skills to the fore at the Ryder Cup



Jim McKenzie Director of Golf
Course and Estate Management,
Celtic Manor Resort



Greenkeepers and Groundsmen and women, have for many years, gone about their work not seeking glory. Often quietly frustrated they are not recognised for their knowledge and skills acquired from day one of choosing a career in sports turf, starting as apprentices.





David Golding, Education Director of the Greenkeepers Training Committee (GTC), a former greenkeeper apprentice himself, praised the work of the greenkeeping staff at The Celtic Manor Resort who were the real heroes behind the European Team's victory over the USA at the 2010 Ryder Cup.

The past Ryder Cups have always been remembered for the superb play by the world's most talented golfers but the 2010 event not only resulted in arguably the most exciting finish ever, but also for the recognition for the profession of greenkeeping.

Jim McKenzie, a former greenkeeping apprentice, and now the Estate and Golf Courses Manager at Celtic Manor had been tasked with preparing the course along with his resident greenkeeping staff. It was his responsibility to make sure the course was pristine as the players arrived for practice, then the weather turned to rain and even more rain!

The extreme weather conditions meant that the pressure on Jim and the greenkeeping team was immense. To ensure golf could be played immediately after the rain stopped. The greenkeeping team brought the skills gained through their apprenticeships and City & Guilds qualifications to the fore in order to maintain the course.

The event might have gone into an extra day but it was only completed thanks to the greenkeepers, all of whom were praised at the closing ceremony by both team Captains, especially by the winning European team's captain, Colin Montgomerie.



Jim has supported training throughout his career development and pays tribute to staff at colleges where sports turf is treated as a specialist subject. However it is essential that the Course Manager, Head Greenkeeper and Grounds person are fully involved with their staff development.

The Greenkeepers Training Committee (GTC) recognises that sports turf as a career can take you throughout the world. British educated, trained and qualified greenkeepers and Groundsmen and women are renowned for their multi-skills, no better example of this was the 2010 Ryder Cup!

The GTC has worked in partnership with City & Guilds Land Based Services to ensure that there is a range of work and centre based qualifications and Certificates of Competence to meet employers and learners needs.

The GTC has developed a highly acclaimed greenkeepers training manual to assist accredited centres with the delivery of Level 2 courses and has also produced a version for Groundsmen and women, fully endorsed by The Institute of Groundsmanship.



For further information on Greenkeeping and Golf Course Management as a career visit www.the-gtc.co.uk or call The Greenkeepers Training Committee on Tel: 01347 838640. For information on Apprenticeships in Greenkeeping visit www.cityandguilds.com. □