HIGHLIGHTS

Monthly Interview: Luís Sousa
FEGGA NEWS: For whom might be interested
Curiosity: Spraying suits offer
Sponsors Area:
  - Webinar Syngenta - Novo Primo Maxx

SCHEDULE

**MAY**
28 WEBINAR SYNGENTA

**SEPTEMBER**
30 3RD APG TECHNICAL SEMINAR, SOUTH

**NOVEMBER**
03-05 XIX APG CONGRESS
For how long do you work as Greenkeeper?
I was Greenkeeper Assistant between 2010 and 2017, becoming a Greenkeeper that year at Dom Pedro Millennium Golf Course.

Tell us about your journey until you get to Dom Pedro Millennium.
I started in the world of golf in 2007, at the Victória Golf Course, where I stayed until April 2009, then I moved to Laguna Golf Course as irrigation tech. In February 2010, I was invited to assist the Greenkeeper at Victória Golf Course, where he stayed until May 2014, and then, I went to Dom Pedro Millennium, where in October 2017, I became the main Greenkeeper.

What makes Dom Pedro Millennium such a special course?
It is a particularly open course, although some holes, especially from 3 to 7, are surrounded by pine trees and untouched land. In this more wooded area, the fairways are narrower and require more precision in the game, while the rest of the course has an open landscape, enriched by lakes.
What's your favorite task, or the one you consider the most important, of your day to day work?  
I like to do some putting on the greens in order to check their condition...and try to reach the hole!

Who do you consider a reference to you as a greenkeeper?  
As Vilamoura has 5 golf courses, I had the opportunity to work with several people and learn from their experience. From the various maintenance staffs I worked with, João Fernandes, Virgolino Santos, Paulo Tomé, Armando Santos, Alexandra Belchior, Stephen Richardson and Simão da Cunha, all of them had a lot to teach. But the reference is Rui Grave, who since day 1 is like a teacher of the Greenkeeping Art!

What do you usually bring with you on your buggy?  
My pitch repair, a knife, a green probe, a valve wrench and the Putter!

How are your golf skills doing?  
Unfortunately, from an early age and by medical advice, I stopped practicing. The 23 years of basketball left me with back problems.

Do not be ashamed to ask what you do not know, to avoid mistakes.  
Sharing information is very important and it is something that APG allows among all those who participate in it, especially in these times!
FEGGA news | FOR WHOM MIGHT BE INTERESTED

FEGGA in association with Kristianstads Golf Club in Sweden have put together what we believe is the perfect opportunity for a greenkeeper to gain practical experience along with a well structured lecture programme that will have a long-term benefit to any Greenkeeper at the end of the course.

The Scholarship programme will be based in Åhus, south Sweden. The Programme will be run over a period of 6 months and start in April each year.

The students will gain exceptional experience at Kristianstads GC, working with some of the most qualified people and companies in golf Course design and maintenance today.

The Scholarship programme is open to all Greenkeepers with some experience, and a Member of their respective National Greenkeeper Association under the umbrella of FEGGA.

We are looking for enthusiastic Greenkeepers who have an ambition to become Golf Course Managers. The Scholarship programme will be available to 8 students per year, a relocation allowance will be supplied and candidates will be paid via their employment provider on a monthly basis. The students will be provided a communal house that will be available at a heavily subsidized cost.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, dates are being rethought, but if you are interested, be sure to send an email to APG or FEGGA for more information.
In partnership with Syngenta, APG will send a spray suit to the greenkeepers who have chosen to join the Pack Campo 2020. We also inform you that those who have not joined, are still on time!
Syngenta Turf and Landscape Iberia organized a webinar where the main theme was the launch of Primo Maxx II new formulation. The turf growth regulator has just been arrived at Portugal and due to the present situation, Syngenta decided to present it through digital platforms. With the crucial support of the APG (Associação Portuguesa de Greenkeepers) which have made the dissemination of the webinar, it was possible to launch the product in Portugal without using the conventional ways of meeting. Marcela Muñoz, Syngenta Turf Technical Manager for Europe, Africa and Middle East, lead the great part of the presentation. Furthermore, Syngenta also have invited Veronica de Luca, PhD researcher from Valencia Polytechnic University and Glen Kirby, UK Technical Manager for Turf.

During the presentation, it was not only presented Primo Maxx II, but Syngenta showed studies and trials done in Spain and Portugal in much similar conditions. Particularly, the use of programs with Primo Maxx II together with wetting agents, pigments or biostimulants. Syngenta have new offers of these products like Qualibra, Ryder and Hicure. Those programs provided a better management of water or heat stress and delivered a better control of diseases.

Questions were raised regarding the use of Primo Maxx II in mixtures, particularly with fungicides, which Syngenta have the compatibilities studies for the whole portfolio. The use on Seashore Paspalum and Bermuda was also a source of questions where Syngenta is now developing expertise in Southern Europe, despite many information available from United States, Middle East or South Africa.

Nearby the end, Glen Kirby offered a vision of the Growth Degrees Days (GDD) model and the main recent findings regarding its use on Primo Maxx II applications.

Syngenta would like to thank again APG, as well our Iberian Distributor, ICL Specialty Fertilizers Iberia and their local representative A. Pereira Jordão whom made possible this virtual event.

A copy of the webinar is available if someone will be interested.

Rui Delgado
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