



HILTON PARK GOLF CLUB

Gordon Simpson

Hilton Park has achieved a notable first with Gordon Simpson making history by becoming Britain's first PGA approved golf club general manager.

Gordon has been awarded a diploma, the first in the UK, signifying he has the training and management skills to run a golf club on a professional basis. This means Hilton Park is leading the rest of the UK in putting a new type of modern club management into operation – as the committee of management promised it would do when we had our strategic review in 2005.

In February the PGA decided to introduce a new qualification designed to ensure PGA members received training in modern club management skills. This new system allows the PGA's members to do much more than just run a club's pro shop and give lessons. It means this new breed of professional manager can oversee a whole new series of responsibilities including strategic and day-to-day management and take charge of the club's finances, marketing, customer service and personnel development.

When the qualification was devised the PGA appointed 13 professionals with an interest in career development to pilot the new qualification. This meant the professionals had to be assessed not just by the PGA but by independent agencies specialising in management training in the workplace.

Gordon completed the course and gained his qualification in July. Now he has just been awarded his diploma – the first PGA member to receive it in the whole UK. His success was also in part a recognition of his record in the past two years at Hilton Park where the courses are being transformed under his supervision and our finances are being returned to rude health as our membership moves back almost to capacity.