



Lawrence Jones

Greenkeeping and
Sports Turf

➔ What inspired you to become a Skills Coach, and what do you enjoy most about supporting apprentices?



I couldn't hack Green Keeping anymore and they say if you can't do teach....

However partly true, I have always enjoyed seeing people thrive and develop, it was one of my favourite parts of GK, training a new staff member and seeing the joy they get from succeeding.

I really enjoy connecting with different people hearing their stories and journeys, and then being able to be a part of that on their way to career progression or personal goals.

➔ What's one piece of advice you always share with apprentices to help them make the most of their training?



Ask questions. Seems cliché but however much of mundane task you think you are doing, understanding the reason behind it helps develop your knowledge hugely and can give a purpose to those boring tasks to make them less so.

⬇ What experience and expertise do you bring to your role that helps apprentices succeed in their chosen industry?



I have 7 years experience in Green Keeping, starting out in New Zealand at Millbrook Resort GC, through my love of golf and a few strokes of luck my eyes were opened to the world of GK. After gaining the basics and experiencing what it's like to work at a top GC I moved back to England and worked at Fynn Valley GC which gave me a different view of the GK world. Where Millbrook was shiny machines, money and details. Fynn Valley was more down to earth, I was having to problem solve and get my hands dirty, this gave me a greater understanding of machinery/manual practices.

I then moved to The Warren, spent 2 years as an assistant completing my Level 2 before moving up to Deputy for 2 years, this move gave me a better understanding of the inner workings of a GC in terms of managing time, people and budgets. Whilst completing my level 3 I moved to Colchester GC where I gained more in depth knowledge around product use/soil science and GC politics.

↓ **How do you support apprentices in balancing workplace demands with their studies?**



Just being there consistently, giving advice from experience and helping them find a study schedule or plan that works for them.

→ **What achievement—either your own career success or a learner's success—are you most proud of?**



From my own career: progressing quickly through ranks and qualifications, showing that having ambitions and taking the chances presented to you can really work.
Student success: nothing specific but having people come back after completing their level 2 to do their level 3, being able to see their progress and support they have from their workplaces who see their potential.

