WIN A BIGGA BLAZER OR £50 IN CASH!

CLUES ACROSS
1. GC, Oxfordshire, 1987 English Amateur Championship venue, set to become 54 holes in July 1994 (6,5)
8. Red figures on a scoreboard, indicate what of a player in relation to par (6)
9. Regulate staff or a machine (7)
10. Ping ..., a range of clubs made by Karsten Engineering (3)
11. L. Baccata or the Yew tree (5)
12. Lily (L. Lilium Candidum) (7)
17. Plants known as 'Thrift' or 'Sea Pinks' (7)
22. Court danger by playing close to the bunker (5)
24. Plant (L. Mesembryanthemum Crystallinum) (3)
25. Surname of the 1984 USPGA Champion (7)
27. Core surrounded by a solenoid which operates sprinkler valves when current is passed (13)

CLUES DOWN
1. Usual destination after the thirteenth green (10,3)
2. Alphabetical filing aid (7)
3. Starts a machine (5-2)
4. Micro cuts up a type of grass (6)
5. Keenly sharpened edge or skill (5)
6. Formulations of different genera and/or cultivars of grass (5)
7. The name of the 5th hole on the Old Course, St Andrews (4,6,3)
8. Unit of electrical resistance (3)
9. Plant known as 'Thrift' or 'Sea Pinks' of which (L. Alpina) is one variety (7)
10. Nationality of 25 Across (6)
11. 1984 USPGA Champion (7)
13. Unit of electrical resistance (3)
14. Commencement of a round (3)
18. 1950 USPGA venue of the Championship (6)
19. Country Club, Columbus, Ohio venue of the 1965 USPGA Championship (6)
21. Quench hot metal in oil (5)
23. Tournament of which (L Alpina) is one variety (7)
24. To defeat heavily, particularly in Match Play (6)
26. Mediate, USPGA Tour Professional (5)
27. Core surrounded by a solenoid which operates sprinkler valves when current is passed (13)

Education and training: the future

BIGGA has the education and training of greenkeepers as its first priority. This, the first of a series of articles, describes the structure of National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs) and Scottish Vocational Qualifications (SVQs). Subsequent articles will describe the role that NVQs/SVQs are having and will continue to have, on greenkeeper training.

Why NVQs/SVQs?
In an attempt to improve the skill levels of British workers and to improve the quality reputation of British manufactured goods, the Government instigated a review of vocational training in 1985. From this review it was apparent that major changes were required in vocational training and the National Council for Vocational Qualifications (NCVQ) was formed to set up the framework for NVQs/SVQs.

What are NVQs/SVQs?
Traditional courses led to academic qualifications by testing candidates on what they knew and not what they could do. NVQs/SVQs measure what a person can do. Candidates for an award must demonstrate their ability to perform certain work-related tasks and have a command of the knowledge underpinning those tasks. There are five levels of NVQ/SVQ. These are:

(a). Level 1 (Craft) Competence in a range of routine or predictable activities.
(b). Level 2 (Craft) Competence in a significant range of work activities, some of which are complex or non-routine. Teamwork may often be a requirement.
(c). Level 3 (Supervisory) Competence in a broad range of work most of which is of a complex or non routine nature. There may be considerable personal control and guidance of others is often required.
(d). Level 4 (Management) Competence in a broad range of complex technical or professional activities with a substantial degree of personal responsibility, responsibility for the work of others and responsibility for the allocation of resources.
(e). Level 5 (Management) Competence involving the application of a significant range of fundamental principles and complex techniques. Very substantial personal autonomy and significant responsibility for others. Planning, design, diagnosis and evaluation are also required.

Each level of NVQ/SVQ is made up of a number of units which set out what the candidate must be able to do and to what standard. Standards are set by Industry Lead Bodies (ILBs). The ILB for greenkeeping is the Industry Lead Body for Amenity Horticulture. NVQs/SVQs are awarded by awarding bodies such as City & Guilds and SCOTVEC.

Accredited Prior Learning
Accredited prior learning (APL) provides routes for recognition of achievements from all types of learning which may be in the classroom, at the workplace or through experience. Evidence of prior learning, once accepted, can be used towards the award of an NVQ/SVQ. Therefore, experienced greenkeepers could gain NVQs/SVQs without the need to attend college.

Benefits of NVQ/SVQ
The introduction of NVQs/SVQs has already changed greenkeeper training. The key to NVQs/SVQs is that they benefit everyone concerned with greenkeeping: greenkeepers, employers and golfers. Having a better trained workforce means better golf courses.