This month, BIGGA’S Education and Training Manager, Ken Richardson, looks at the future of Education and Training and asks you to get involved

Education and Training - The future

BIGGA has been offering its members the chance to take part in education and training since it was formed in 1987. The majority of newcomers to greenkeeping are now trained and assessed to meet the National Standards of NVQ Level 2 in Sportsturf Management, progressing to Level 3 Sportsturf Maintenance and Level 4 Sportsturf Management.

Others take the more academic route and study for HNC/HND in Golf Course Management, with some moving on to study for a first degree. Those who have attained a formal qualification should not sit back and stop learning, as learning should be continued throughout your career.

Greenkeeper Training

Training providers are now starting to offer what the industry has been requesting through the GTC for some time, for example distance learning and at work learning and assessment, so that greenkeepers continue to develop their careers.

BIGGA introduced its Continuing Professional Development Scheme in 2000, to encourage greenkeepers to take part in Life Long Learning so that they can adapt their skills to the requirements of today’s golf courses.

Anyone who attended the Annual General Meeting in Harrington in January, would have heard Neil talk about the changes that were due to take place during months with education and training being just one area where change may take place.

This is your chance to have your say to determine what education and training should be offered by BIGGA, where should it be, how much should it cost and how long should it last.

Think about where you fit into the model shown below and contact me, Sami, your Section Secretary, your Regional Administrator, your Course Manager or any member of BIGGA staff and let us know what you want.

The model shows that entry to greenkeeping may be for those already holding an academic qualification or by those not yet qualified.

Unqualified entrants should be given induction training eg, health and safety, working hours, holidays, pay, pension, golf etiquette, uniform, communications with golfers etc and on the job training. They could also be sent to a training provider who would give them the appropriate underpinning knowledge and skills training. Does BIGGA have a training role here?

Some greenkeepers may wish to continue as assistants and not progress to Level 3, however, continuing training, eg First Aid, Chainsaw, Spraying etc may be required. Does BIGGA have a training role here?

For those wanting to progress to Level 3 we do need to ‘drip feed’ training or are they ready to take on the higher level tasks and duties and prove competence. Does BIGGA have a training role here?

If they are ready to move to the next Level then a training provider can offer the appropriate underpinning knowledge and skills training, however, assessment should be done at work.

Some greenkeepers may wish to continue at this Level and not progress to Level 4, however, continuing training will be required. Does BIGGA have a training role here?

For those wanting to progress to Level 4 do we need to ‘drip feed’ training or are they ready to take on the higher level tasks and duties and prove competence. Does BIGGA have a training role here?

If they are ready to move to this next Level then a training provider can offer the appropriate underpinning knowledge and skills training, however, assessment should be done at work.

Once reaching this Level, continuing training is still required. Does BIGGA have a training role here?

Entrants with academic qualifications also need induction training and will need to prove competence before doing supervised work. Where they fit into the model depends on experience and skill level. Nevertheless, they will need continuing training and development. Does BIGGA have a training role here?

BIGGA and the GTC are committed to life long learning by encouraging golf clubs and greenkeepers to ‘buy into’ the training options available. Training at the appropriate level is available to all greenkeepers. Use it or fall behind.

The TOBO Student of the Year Competition

Now in its twelfth year, the search to find the TOBO Student of the Year has begun. Competition details and entry forms have been sent to colleges and training providers and all entries should reach BIGGA HQ by 11 May 2001. The main points of the competition are:

1. The winner receives the TOBO scholarship to the USA and visits the TOBO factories and to the GCSSA conference and show in Orlando.

2. The winner’s greenkeeping lecturer wins a visit to the GCSSA conference and show in Orlando.

3. The two runners up win a fully free trip to visit TOBO and the TOBO Experience 2002 at Harragote.

4. Regional finals will be held in six locations during late June and up to eight students will be selected for the National Final which will take place on 29 and 30 October 2001.

Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund

The Fund provides the key to the future of greenkeepers, golf club and game. Individuals and companies can join the Golden Key Circle and Silver Key Circle. For details, please contact BIGGA on 01347 833900.

Golden Key Circle Company Members

Company Tel: Head Office
Amazone Ground Care 01979 351155
Bermhard and Company Ltd 01788 811600
Charterhouse Turf Machinery Ltd 01426 861222
Gunn Professional 01254 396111
John Dierce Ltd 01949 960491
Hayler Ltd 01279 723444
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PGA European Tour 01344 842881
Rain Bird 01927 891126
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Individual Members

Mike Eastwood, J H Frig, J H Greenley, David S Robinson, Stuart Townsend

Silver Key Circle Company Members

Company Tel: Head Office
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Heath Lambert Ltd 0113 2461213
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Clive A Asher, John Crawford, Bruce Coulshdon, David Faugh, Alan Holmes, Ian Mclnnes, Robert Macintosh, Richard S Mulvan, Eikct R Small, Steven Taylor, Raymond J Wimmer, WJ Rogers, Kenneth Jones

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