As a member of the Greenkeepers Training Committee, BIGGA is actively involved in raising the Standard of Greenkeeper Training. The range and quality of training now available means that there is a training course for every greenkeeper which should improve the quality of greenkeeping and help to produce better quality golf courses.

Golf Course Managers should ensure that their staff are trained to the highest standards, beginning by selecting a training provider that meets the criteria laid down by the GTC.

There is a clear link between education, training and economic success and if you think that training is expensive then try ignorance.

Ken Richardson
Education and Training Manager,
British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association
Tel: 01347 833800
Email: education@bigga.co.uk
Website: www.bigga.org.uk

The Greenkeepers Training Committee (GTC) is continually striving to raise the standards of Golf Course Maintenance and Management and they are totally committed to ensuring that the range of qualifications are relevant to the Sportsturf sector and used by employers for recruitment and by trainees for their own personal development.

The Government endorsed awards range from National/Scottish Vocational Qualifications (N/SVQ’s) to the more academic Higher National Certificate (HNC)/National Diploma (ND)/Higher National Diploma (HND) in Golf Course Management and the Degree in Sportsturf Science.

The qualifications are continually under review by the Lantra Sector Skills Council (SSC) in association with the GTC. The quality of the delivery of these awards by the network of GTC Approved Training Providers is also constantly monitored by the GTC.

For up to date independent advice on qualifications, education and training courses contact the GTC on: Tel: 01347 838640
Email: golf@the-gtc.co.uk
Website: www.the-gtc.co.uk

BIGGA has shown its commitment to Greenkeeper Education and Training by investing heavily in Conferences, Seminars and Training Courses. Companies and individuals can show their commitment by contributing to the BIGGA Education and Development Fund through the BIGGA Golden and Silver Key Membership scheme.

This ring fenced fund supports a range of training resources such as Regional Training Courses, Education Conferences, Workshops, Training Vouchers, a Lending Library, Videos, Careers Advice, Books, Booklets, Educational Posters and Field Guides.

The BIGGA Education and Development Fund gives companies, groups and individuals the opportunity to show their commitment to the greenkeeping industry by making donations, gifts and bequests which will improve the skills and knowledge of greenkeepers, enhance the status of greenkeeping and ensure the highest standards of golf course maintenance.

Education and Training - the key to a great future for greenkeepers, golf clubs and the game of golf. Unlock the doors to progress through the BIGGA Education and Development Fund.

For further details on BIGGA Golden and Silver Key Membership please contact the Executive Director on 01347 833800.
This guide is not exhaustive and a full list of GTC approved training providers can be obtained from the GTC. The Greenkeepers Training Committee (GTC) are continually reviewing the approved status of training providers offering greenkeeper training courses. Anyone with a query regarding greenkeeper training should contact the Greenkeeper Training Committee at Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Aine, York YO61 1UF, Tel: 01347 838640 or visit their website at http://www.the-gtc.co.uk

**Training providers guide**

**Available courses guide**

**ENGLAND**

**SPARSHOLT COLLEGE HAMPSHIRE**
Sparsholt, Winchester, Hampshire, SO21 2NP Contact: Ray Broughton Tel: 01962 776441 Fax: 01962 779587 Email: rsparsholt@sparsholt.ac.uk Web: www.sparsholt.ac.uk Information: NVQ Level 2 Greenkeeping Practice, NVQ Level 3 Greenkeeping Supervision, City & Guilds. Phase IV Management Studies. National Diploma in Golf Course Management and Sports Studies.
National Certificate in Greenkeeping and Sports turf management. GTC Greenkeeping Certificate, GTC Certificate in Golf Course Supervision, FEPA. Short courses, Chainsaws. Phase IV and NVQ Level 2 are offered an block release and day release. Full residential facilities available. Sparsholt College provides education and training in the land-based industries.

**THE COLLEGE OF WEST ANGLIA**
Millbank Campus Contact: Bob Young Tel: 01223 667011 Email: enquiries@col-westanglia.ac.uk Information: The College of West Anglia offers a full range of courses for Greenkeepers including; NVQ Level 1 Sports Turf (Greenkeeping and Groundsmanship), NVQ Level 3 Sports Turf Maintenance. GTC Craft Certificate, GTC Certificate in Golf Course Supervision, TELB Assessors awards. FEPA, Chain Saws, M&D. Other Courses: National and First Diploma in Horticulture and Garden Design.

**WARWICKSHIRE COLLEGE**

**TRAINING PROVIDERS GUIDE**

**Wprinting**

**Writtle College**
Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 3RF Contact: Registry Tel: 01245 424400 Fax: 01245 420456 Email: info@writtle.ac.uk Web: www.writtle.ac.uk Information: Sports Turf Programmes NVQ Level 2 - Sports Turf, NVQ Level 3 - Sports Turf Maintenance. NVQ Levels 2 & 3 - Amenity Horticulture. NVQ Level 4 - Turf Course Management. Certificate, GTC Certificate in Golf Course Supervision, GTC. Advanced National Certificate in Sports Turf Management. 2-year day release.

**NORTHERN IRELAND**

**GREENMOUNT COLLEGE**
Antrim, County Antrim, Northern Ireland BT41 4PU Contact: Paul Campbell Tel: 028 9432 6870 Email: paul.campbell@gdri.dardni.gov.uk Web: www.greenmount.ac.uk Information: Day release courses to (a) NVQ Level II Greenkeeping & Sports Turf, (b) NVQ Level II Golf Course Supervision, (c) Advanced National Certificate in Horticulture (Sports turf), (d) Higher National Diploma turf options, j/PEPE, Health & Safety and a range of short courses.

**IRELAND**

**TEAGASC COLLEGE**
College of Amenity Horticulture, National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, Dublin, DUBLIN 9, Republic of Ireland Contact: Pat Suttle Tel: 01352 841034 Fax: 01352 841031 Email: p.suttle@teagasc.ie Web: www.teagasc.ie Information: Courses offered: Level 3 Certificate in Greenkeeping, Level 3 Certificate in Golf Course Management, National Diploma in Horticulture (Greenkeeping Major offered)

**SCOTLAND**

**ELMWOOD COLLEGE**

**LANGSIDE COLLEGE**

**WALES**

**ELMSWORTH COLLEGE**

**PENCROFT COLLEGE**