The first Harrogate Week is now over and my thoughts are turning to a New Year of education and training opportunities. Many of you will have been at the AGM and heard me mention one of the projects that we are involved with. This is the introduction of a web-based Greenkeeper Training and Development Manual that will be launched towards the end of this month.

The manual contains three main types of information and these are: Text, Sub Text and Video. It also contains hypertext links to other relevant web sites.

The Text tab takes you to the text related to that page, the video tab takes you to a related video clip and sub text takes you to a list of downloadable options. These options include hyperlinks, draft forms, draft job specifications, draft handbooks, etc.

Downloading the draft form should open your default word processing package and open the relevant document.

You can then add your own information and edit items such as the golf club name and print the document. There is also a link to an example training path that shows how the site relates to your needs and to the needs of your staff.

You can enter the manual at any point and you do not need to follow in through hole by hole. For example, if you just wanted to look at the information on Estates Manager, you go straight to hole 18.

Hopefully, the golf course and golf club managers of today will be able to use the Manual to design training and development plans for all of their staff, accessing the most appropriate education and training courses at the appropriate time, leading to the managers of today helping to develop the managers of tomorrow.

Access to the site is free to all members of BIGGA and to all members of the AGCS. Non-members of either Organisation can gain access by becoming a member of the relevant Organisation.