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Peter Broadbent, Head Greenkeeper, Effingham Golf Club, Effingham, Surrey

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The 68DL has transport speed, electric start and full width rollers. Banking has never been so easy.
In October, more than 90 new members joined BIGGA, and began to take advantage of the many savings and benefits available to them. Tracey Maddison gives details on just a few of them...

### BIGGA welcomes...

Scottish Region
- Gerry Anderson, West
- Graeme L Bryte, Central
- Richard W Cutler, North
- Nish Robson Halley, Argyll
- Steven Peter Hemmings, Central
- Graham MacKie, North
- Stuart Maxwell, Central
- James Mur McGowan, West
- Brian David Reeds, Central
- John Hadgford, Argyll

South East Region
- Paul James Andrew, Kent
- Louis Alan Ayns, Surrey
- John Paul Bell, Sussex
- Adrian Bayes, Surrey
- Ian William Carty, Surrey
- John Graeme Clarke, London
- Luke Denton, Sussex
- Steffen Elliott, Kent
- Darres Elliott, Kent
- Ian Faulkner, Kent
- Lee Felton, Kent
- Dominic Foster, Surrey
- Andrew Stuart Furness, London
- Philip William Gurney, Surrey
- Andrew Greedy, Surrey
- Paul Greenfield, Sussex
- Allan Edward Jaggard, Essex
- Paul Old Larran, Kent
- Simon Martin, Kent
- Darren Pettengill, Sussex
- Richard Henry Philips, Essex
- Philip Saine, Kent
- Robert Cameron Welford, Sussex
- James Peter Wells, Sussex

South West & Wales Region
- William Martin Clarke, Dev/C’well
- Simon Peter Clarke, Devon/C’well
- Thomas Lewis Gower, S West
- Christopher John Gower, S West
- Colin Green, S West
- Martin Haydon-Howell, S West
- Gary L Vic, S West
- Richard Woods, S West

Nort herns Ireland
- Lee Michael Edwards, Northern Ireland
- Michael Edward Kennedy, Northern Ireland


### International Members
- Stewart Macdonald, Germany
- David Mahler, Germany
- Frank Schafer, Germany
- Roy Douglas Makr, Spain
- Javanu Perez, Spain

### Associate Members
- Kate Ethridge, Northern Ireland
- Tom Henry, Northern Ireland
- David Burton Smith, E Midland
- Clive Dryden, Surrey
- Gene Bates, USA

### Student Members
- Glenn Cameron, East Grinstead, North
- Richard Cowen, N West
- Tony Owen, N Wales
- Ben Cervy, E England
- Timothy Parker, Vd Anglia
- James Peter Low, Surrey
- Gavin Jemson, Surrey
- Daniel Roberts, S West
- Mark Farrowage, Rep Ireland

Check out January’s edition next year for more exciting news about BIGGA's new members!

### BIGGA’s Education and Training Manager, Ken Richardson reports on the latest education and training developments

I hope that by now, all of you have applied for your Individual Learning Accounts. If the number applying matches the entries for this year’s essay competition then they will have to take on extra staff.

The Learning Experience 2001

Applications for the Learning Experience 2000 are flooding in to BIGGA HOUSE and places on the Workshops are filling fast. The deadline for applications for the Learning Experience 2001, sponsored by Treston Turf Care and Speciality Products, is January 10, 2001. Make sure of your place by sending in your entry NOW. Extra copies of the Learning Experience brochure and application form are available from BIGGA HQ.

Visit the Royal Hall on Thursday 25 January and receive even better value than previously advertised in the Learning Experience brochure. Appearing at 11am until 11.30 will be Chris Byrd, from Milliken Chemicals, speaking on Drainage Improvements with Kansas Structure Management. Ship on Barnaby, from Scots UK Professional, will follow at 11.30 with a session on the USGA Specification.

Like to congratulate all finalist, especially Iain Ritchie, the Excellence Award winner and Jonathan Clelland the Student of the Year. The wealth of almost caused problems and three finalists had to be evacuated from South Lodge. It was a difficult job to separate the finalists and select the winners in both competitions as the standard was as high as ever. Thanks to the continued sponsorship by TORO these competitions go from strength to strength.

Regional Training Courses

There are still plenty of places available on a number of courses being held in the New Year. These are:

- Essential Management Skills for Greenkeepers
  - Most House Hotel, Sheffield.
  - Cost for BIGGA Members £120.00 + VAT
  - OnCourse

- Interviews and Appraisals
  - East Cliff Hotel Bournemouth, 21 and 22 March, Frank Newberry
  - Wokefield Park, Reading, 12 and 13 March, Frank Newberry
  - Baronsdele Hotel, Newcastle, Northern Ireland, Brin Bendon
  - Cost for BIGGA Members £120.00 + VAT
  - OnCourse

- Making Budgets Count
  - Quality Hotel, Walsall, 12 and 13 February, Brin Bendon
  - East Cliff Hotel Bournemouth, 15 and 16 February, Frank Newberry
  - Cost for BIGGA Members £120.00 + VAT
  - OnCourse

Health and Safety Update

Old Fold Manor Golf Club, Bannet, 6 February, Tony Rees
- Cost for BIGGA Members £50.00 + VAT
- OnCourse

Negotiation Skills

BIGGA HOUSE, 28 February, Brin Bendon
- Cost for BIGGA Members £520.00 + VAT
- OnCourse

Manual Handling and Risk Assessments

Old Fold Manor Golf Club, 7 February, Tony Rees
- Cost for BIGGA Members £50.00 + VAT
- OnCourse
LEAVES LARGE AREAS LITTERLESS

**Truck Loaders**
This is the professional way to shift mountains of leaves and light debris into trucks for transport or removal. The tailgate model complete with 8" x 10' Intake Hose Kit and 11hp heavy duty Briggs and Stratton IC engine will fit most pick-up vehicles by simple hand-clamp attachment to tailboard. Also trailed model complete with 10" x 10' Intake Hose and Spring Boom and 11hp Briggs and Stratton engine to suit ANY vehicle.

**Powersweepers**
A range of heavy duty pedestrian controlled commercial quality leaf/litter vacuums, sweepers and blowers. There is a choice of push or self-propelled models fitted with either 5hp, 8hp or 11hp Briggs and Stratton engines.
David McInroy is Managing Director of Scottish Grass Machinery, one of Europe’s top Textron dealers, based in Scotland. Here he talks about how to get the best from your dealer.

**From leading to cutting edge**

If Scottish Grass Machinery is to reach its target, to double turnover to £20 million by 2005, we must continue to listen to the specialist needs of our customers and manufacturers.

To achieve this high pace of growth, we will once more revolutionise what the right dealer will offer its customers.

We have developed a new way of doing business. If we are to revolutionise the market it is important that we bring together the manufacturer and customer to share information and at the same time listen to other experts in the golf industry. Our new approach is called ‘From the Leading Edge to the Cutting Edge’.

What the dealer is doing

This new way of doing business was kicked off recently with our Cutting Edge conference. This brought together golf experts from all over the world to map out the future of the golf industry in Scotland.

Our panel of eight internationally renowned speakers gathered at the SGM Group’s Inverkeithing headquarters in October to share information with more than 300 greenkeepers, Club Secretaries, Ground Convenors and Captains about a number of topics affecting the future growth of the golf industry. These included marketing, the environment, and the manufacture and supply of ground maintenance equipment.

Customers were given an insight into how some of Scotland’s top golf courses such as Meldrum House Golf Club, the Old Course at St Andrews and the championship courses at Gleneagles are promoted in Scotland and overseas.

By bringing the manufacturer, dealer and customer together in a forum for discussion, issues such as environmental factors affecting the golf industry put us in touch with customer needs.

**What the manufacturer is doing**

At the same event Harold Pinto, Textron’s Managing Director-International, explained Textron’s new marketing strategy - the Jacobsen range for golf courses and the Ransomes range for local authority and municipal markets. The new Jacobsen Greensking VI golf green ride-on mower was also launched to the Scottish market.

We firmly believe in this new marketing approach. We have created a stand alone golf division which markets the Jacobsen products to the golf market, and a separate dedicated team marketing the Ransomes range to the local authority and municipal market.

By being in step with Textron’s UK strategy, we will further improve our customer service by offering dedicated sales, service and support teams for the golf market and local authority and municipal market, who know the equipment for each industry inside out.

**Bringing manufacturer and end user together**

A full range of machinery was on display at the conference, which allowed Textron to hear ‘from the horses mouth’ what the market thinks of their new range. Customers were also given the opportunity to test drive each of the products and Textron staff were on hand to answer any queries from customers.

Textron’s Regional Manager Ian Bridges introduced each product, including the Jacobsen, Ransomes, E-Z-GO, Cushman and Ryan brands. Product demonstrations were carried out on our mini golf course at the back of the dealership in front of a seated grandstand.

**What’s in all of this for the customer?**

Scottish Grass Machinery has had to revolutionise its image until we find new, better ways of doing things. We have driven the ground maintenance industry forward in Scotland. Over the last few years we have continuously worked with our dealers to develop a professional, customer-focused way of doing business.

A year ago Scottish Grass Machinery recognised that our customers needed a more flexible way of financing the cost of equipment, and of maintaining and servicing machinery. Backed by Bank of Scotland, SGM Finance was born to allow customers to control their costs with a contract with no hidden extras.

In one case we managed to save a golf club which was in serious financial difficulty from struggling on with old and broken machinery. We were able to supply them, after trade-ins, with £100,000 worth of brand new equipment at a monthly cost they could afford. And if our customers prefer, we can even build in payment holidays during the winter when no green fees are collected.

SGM Finance gives our customers new equipment with no capital outlay. Instead, there is a monthly payment which guarantees a fixed price for up to five years which covers servicing, maintenance and breakdowns.

In the case of a breakdown we guarantee a swift response and if we cannot fix the problem there and then, we supply the same standard of replacement machinery until the problem is fixed - that’s guaranteed.

Scottish Grass Machinery ensures that customers can see for themselves the quality of our products. We have two staff who are constantly on the road taking products to our customers for demonstrations on golf courses all over the country. This ensures that all of our customers get the most out of our equipment and the best quality cut. We also provide a day’s training which leads to a competency certificate for their operators.

Quality is something we take seriously at Scottish Grass Machinery. In November last year we were
Above: Stuart Harley and Willie Reed test out two new SGM delivery vans. The green livery denotes SGM grass machinery, while the blue refers to SGM industrial.

awarded the prestigious BS EN 9002 1994 industry quality standard.

We then also recognised that the service levels that we introduced through SGM Finance could be applied to other related sectors - giving rise to SGM industrial. Our business diversified and our product range extended to provide our existing customers with a one-stop shop which as well as ground maintenance equipment includes precinct sweepers, tractors, snow-clearing gritters, woodchippers and shredders.

To accommodate this structure, we became the SGM Group with three divisions, grass machinery, finance and industrial.

Investing in the future

Since moving to Inverkeithing in 1997 we have continued to invest in our premises, technology and most importantly rigorous training for our people. As well as regular in-house training, all of SGM's mechanics are given a minimum of two weeks off-site training at Textron's factory in Ipswich.

We have invested £30,000 in a giant-sized Kardex Industriever as part of our constant drive to improve customer service. The machinery operates a carousel enabling quick and easy access to more than 15,000 stored parts.

This piece of equipment has dramatically improved the spare parts order processing and at the same time allows the company's 15 field service engineers to further enhance the first class after sales service they currently provide.

Time is of the essence in meeting customer demand. It now takes seconds to access a part using the Industriever. This means we are able to provide an even more efficient maintenance and support service to our customers. It has also reduced the floor space required for parts storage by around 70%, which we now use as additional workshop space.

Looking to the future, the creation of these new business innovations does not mean we have time to rest on our laurels. If we are to become a £20 million business, it is essential that we continue to move our entire industry from the leading edge to the cutting edge.

Below: Neil Henderson perfects the Old Course greens watched by SGM's Steven McInroy, while Eddie Adams tries out a piece of new machinery.
Have greenkeeping standards risen because of the incentives of the Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping and the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year competition or do the awards merely amplify the increasing standards that have been there all along?

The reality is probably somewhere in between. Standards are rising within the industry with better education and an increasingly high quality of candidate being attracted to greenkeeping... but the Toro Awards are very juicy carrots for the more ambitious and motivated within the profession and undoubtedly entice many into striving that little bit harder to win a Toro title. Doing so ensures that a CV stands out from the crowd for an entire career.

The 2000 Toro Awards continued to produce more evidence of growing standards unveiling as they did two fine Champions from two pools of finalists any one of whom would have worn his particular crown with genuine distinction.

The winner of the re-styled Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping was won by Iain Ritchie, of Portmarnock Golf Club, the Irish finalist... once he got there, with Ronnie Bunting, of Kilmacolm Golf Club and Scotland; Terry Farkins, of Dartmouth Golf and Country Club and England, and Gary Johnstone, of Southerndown Golf Club and Wales, all making it a difficult decision for the judges, Walter Woods; Graeme Dale, Managing Director of Lely UK; Bruce Jamieson; Toro Agronomy Consultant and Neil Thomas.
Terry actually made history having been the first man to have reached the final of both the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award, in 1991 and, eight years later reaching the national final of the Toro Excellence Award as well. His progression is a model for young greenkeepers everywhere.

Jonathan Cleland, of Helensburgh Golf Club and GOSTA Training won the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award with Michael Sawicki, of Richmond Golf Club and NESCOT and Vince Harrison, of Enderby Golf Course and Brooksby College, runners-up each winning an all expenses paid trip to BTME 2001.

Judges in the Student Award final were Jim Paton, Chairman of BIGGA’s Education Sub-Committee, Pete Mansfield, General Manager Turf Products, of Lely UK, Andy Brown, of Toro, and Ken Richardson.

Getting back to the original conundrum. There is no definitive answer but let us merely delight in the fact that standards are on the up and up and thank Toro for putting in place two competitions which benefit greenkeepers and golf clubs all over the country.

Iain Ritchie was a little worried about entering the Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping coming from such a high profile club. But it all worked out well...

Iain Ritchie was a little apprehensive about entering the Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping. After all, as Course Manager at Portmarnock Golf Club, near Dublin, one of the best known and most highly regarded golf courses in the world, he was putting himself up there to be shot at.

But he needn’t have worried. Golf Clubs of the stature of Portmarnock don’t employ run-of-the-mill greenkeepers and the judges at the new style “Home International” final at BIGGA HOUSE recognised what was already apparent to the Portmarnock members and crowned Iain the winner of the 2000 Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping.

“Obviously I’m from one of the top clubs in the country and I was putting myself forward to be knocked down. I spoke with the club about it and they fully appreciated how I was feeling. But it has gone the right way for me so it means a hell of a lot. I’m very proud of the profession I’m in,” said Iain, as he spoke the morning after one of the most hectic and stress-filled days of his life - (see page 18).

“The Captain was mentioning the fact that I was the Irish Champion and that I was going to the national final in various speeches he has given and I phoned the club as soon as I knew I had won. I’m certainly looking forward to getting back to the club. I’ll have a big smile on my face,” said a happy man, who was modelling one of those smiles as he said it.

Iain, whose accent now betrays only a hint of his Aberdeen roots, has been at the club for 10 years and is now benefiting, much like a football manager given the time to learn the strengths and weakness of his team, from having had the time to learn everything about the golf course from 1st tee to 18th green plus all the surrounding areas.

“We’ve upped a gear or two recently but I would say that was down to natural progression rather than a conscious decision to do so. It is also gratifying to see see that Portmarnock is placed number seven in the recent Golf World magazine rankings. Our up for the efforts we’ve put in in the last few years. This minor tweaking, redesigning and reshaping work is starting to show, while we’ve just spent half a million on a new irrigation system. It’s just an insurance policy really,” he said.

Projects in the pipeline include the reconstruction of the 12th green which will be put out to contract.

“It’s something to get our teeth into and is a big project for Portmarnock Golf Club and depending upon how this one goes there may be more to come.”

Iain and his team are well supported by the Honorary Secretary and the General Manager.

The Honorary Secretary, Joe McAlease, is also what we call the Links Convener and he has a serious passion for the golf course, there is no other way to describe it. He loves it and gets very involved. He’ll come down and have a cup of tea with the staff and tell a few jokes. It’s a very nice atmosphere.
Risk & reward
continued from page 17

"General Manager, John Quigley, is the man who put me forward for the Toro award."

It is perhaps a reflection in the quality of golf courses in the Irish Republic that a previous attempt to win the Toro award didn't get past Level but it did ensure that this year Iain was ready.

"After that I stood back and took a look at the entire operation and tight- ened up many working practices, and this fitted Iain had moved closer to the competition. They were fully aware of what was happening, when it would be happening and what the place would be like," said Iain, who would describe himself as employing the hands-on approach to the job.

The golf club will greatly appreciate the Toro Worman 2100 which they receive as part of the prize while Iain is already looking forward to the trip to the GCSAA Show in Dallas.

"I haven't been to the show for about seven years and ironically it was at Dallas the last time I went there."

He is also complimentary of his staff of 12, whom he describes as being very enthusiastic and loyal. They benefit from Iain's success to the tune of £250 while Iain's sure that will be added to by the club.

"I've had very little turnover in the last 10 years, mostly it's been retirements."

Prior to moving to Ireland Iain had been Head Greenkeeper at Ladybank, a wonderful heathland course not far from Cupar, Fife.

"I was at Ladybank for five years from '85. It was a superb club to work for, I was a member as well and it was difficult to leave, particularly as in '90 we had an Open Qualifier for the St Andrews Championship and I would have loved to have stayed and prepared for that. I must admit I have very fond memories of Ladybank."

"However, there was a big carrot being dangled in the shape of Portmarnock and an Irish Open which was held 10 weeks after I got there," said Iain who adds that his arrival at Portmarnock was the first time he had ever set foot on Irish soil."

That Irish Open went well with a high profile winner in Jose Maria Olazabal while the course achieved much more publicity when it hosted the 1991 Walker Cup.

In the run up to the match, then American amateur golden boy, Phil Mickelson, made a derogatory remark about Irish women - so unimpressed with George Bush, "Dubya's" dad the then US President, had to apoloise.

"The course went down well with everyone though as it always does," said Iain, who is married to Yvonne with two daughters Lisa and Lynnie.

Portmarnock has also received a couple of visits from Tiger Woods, who has taken to honing his game for the Open with a few days in Ireland tackling some of the finer links courses.

"He comes into the club afterwards and is always very open. It's nice when things like that happen on your golf course."

It seems a lot of nice things are happening to Iain at the moment and they are all much deserved. "I turned 40 last week and now this. It's been a very good Millennium for me."

When in Rome... Find a way to get back!

For such an important day as the Toro finals you would imagine that a finalist would get an early night and be up, ready, and prepared well before the interview time.

Nor Iain Ritchie. The tale of what hap- pened on the day of the finals would make a fine sequel to John Cleese's film Clockwise.

To celebrate his 40th birthday Iain and wife, Yvonne, had booked to spend the long weekend in Rome only dis- covering later that the Monday coincided with the Toro finals.

Let Iain take up the story.

"There was nothing to do but for me to fly out early on Monday morning and for Yvonne to come back at the scheduled time later that night.

"However, the day coincided with day one of the horrendous storms which hit much Britain."

"I left our hotel at 6am to get the 8.30 flight to Heathrow where I was due to change for Leeds/Bradford. When I got into the airport everything to and from London was delayed because of the storms. I then tried to buy a ticket to get to Amsterdam from where I could then fly directly to Leeds/Bradford but I couldn't because my luggage by this time had been checked in."

"With my interview at 3pm all I could do was keep Joe Bedford, who was at BIGGA HOUSE, informed by mobile what was happening. After all, it was a day we eventually did get airborne but there were further delays as we circled Heathrow at least 15 times. When we did land I had to run from Terminal 2 across to Terminal 1 for the British Midland lounge. I was carrying my pre- sentation because I hadn't wanted to risk it going missing."

"By this time it was already about 3pm and I had been due on the 12.45pm flight to Leeds/Bradford. Fortunately this flight hadn't left and I thought finally things were going my way... but then it didn't take off until half past four."

"Sitting waiting for this flight I was desperate and quite prepared to hire a car, and driver it necessary to drive me to York. It meant so much to me to be there."

"I had a car booked at Leeds/Bradford and knew that Aldwark Bridge was closed for redevelopment. I'd organised a route from my computer Route Master but Elliott (Small) came on and told me that this way was closed because of the weather so I had to go another way by memory."

"I eventually arrived at the Hotel at 6.30pm and, after a quick shave, was sitting being interviewed at 7.10pm, the scheduled time having been moved back as far as was possible to accom- modate me."

"The last thing I wanted to do was jump straight out of the car and slap bang in the middle of an interview sit- uation but the later it got in the day the more unfair it was on everyone else. I was thinking of Ronnie Bunting, who'd been on first at the beginning of the day and how long he was having to wait."

"I felt that I had a nervy start to the interview but after that they had to shut me up at the end."
Jonathan Cleland explains to Scott MacCallum his love of greenkeeping and what winning the accolade of Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year means to him...

**Following a dream**

As a small boy Jonathan Cleland used to watch Helensburgh Golf Club's greenkeeping staff at work from Eltonwood College and, with no full time vacancy available at Helensburgh, took a post at nearby Cameron House Hotel. There he quickly rose to the post of Head Greenkeeper.

It was on his return to Helensburgh that his march towards the prestigious Toro award gained momentum. He achieved it through Glasgow-based GOSTA training and impressed tutor Chris Bothwell to such an extent that he was put forward for the competition and following a regional interview and a final interview at BIGGA HOUSE he was announced winner.

I'm over the moon. Winning the Toro Student of the Year Award for the year 2000 gives me a lot of satisfaction and a great deal of pride," said 25-year-old Jonathan, as we spoke the morning after some considerable celebrations in Aldwark Manor Hotel.

Asking if there was any stage at which he felt he had the qualities which set him apart from the rest he answered with honesty and in a manner devoid of cockiness.

"I am very confident and I take a lot of pride in detail in the work that I do on the course. I'm quite a perfectionist...although that can be a weakness," acknowledged Jonathan, who is proud of the fact that he prepared Helensburgh for the highlight of its calendar, the Helensburgh Golf Week, earlier this year when a late change of date meant Ronnie Miles and Alan Glachan, Head Greensman at Cameron House Hotel, are the two people who have helped him most with his career.

Having enjoyed a trip to Australia earlier in the year - one on which his girlfriend did accompany him - he is looking forward to heading stateside too and making the most of his Toro prize.

"The six week study course will increase my knowledge and give me a greater understanding of how things work over in the States while meeting new people and students of different nationalities will be an experience in itself in multicultural terms. What with the trips to Dallas for the GCSAA Conference and show and the trip to California I'll get a lot out of it. Toro support of this competition is wonderful and like the winners before me I'm sure I'll benefit greatly from it."

Back home he will continue his education and is currently looking at his options.

"The SVQ 3 was very useful to me in the position I held as it helped with budgeting, forecasting and management skills and as I work closely with Ronnie and I'm encouraged to give my opinions on a range of things the NVQ gave me the confidence to do that. I'll be looking at perhaps a national diploma and when and if I have my own course SVQ Level 4."

You can be sure that whatever Jonathan decides to tackle next he will succeed as the little lad who watched Helensburgh's greenkeeping staff switching greens from his own garden has become a perfect role model for any other youngsters who may be making early career decisions.

Below: A proud Jonathan displays his well-earned trophies

Bottom: The 2000 Toro Student of the Year finalists with their judging panel. Jonathan is flanked by Vince Harrison on the left and Michael Sawicki on the right.
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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 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 National Training Organisation (NTO) 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
GREENKEEPER TRAINING

The Greenkeepers Training Committee (GTC) are continually reviewing the approved status of colleges offering greenkeeper training courses. This guide shows colleges offering courses to craft, supervisory and management levels, but it must be stated that until the GTC review is completed only the green coded colleges are approved to train greenkeepers beyond craft level. The introduction of vocational qualifications into industries, has caused the colleges to re-think their training policies and the GTC will be issuing guidelines for the golf greenkeeping industry as to which colleges employers and their staff should be using. Anyone with a query regarding greenkeeper training should contact the Greenkeeper Training Committee at Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alcester, Yorkershire B90 6UD. Tel: 0114 248 2972 Fax: 0114 248 2453 Email: training@ostatraining.freeserve.co.uk SVQ 1, 2, 3 and 4 also Modern Apprenticeship in all options of Amenity Horticulture including Sports Turf and GTC. Manual attendance day/block release from November to March. Short courses include Pesticides, Chainsaw, First Aid, Abrasive Wheels, Manual Handling and Assessor training. Consultancy covering Noise Assessment, Site Risk Audits, Machinery Permit to Use, COSHH, Health and Safety Policy.

ELMWOOD COLLEGE, Copey Rd, KY15 4NJ. Contact: Alan Perry Tel: 01535 658840 Fax: 01535 658988 or Email: alanp@elmwood.ac.uk Full-time courses: National Certificate, Block Release following SVQ Level II and GTC training manual. SVQ Level III Block Release and Outreach available with SVQ Level IV coming soon. HNC/HND Golf Course Management available as full time, block release and distance learning. Professional development awards for football and cricket available by both Block Release and Outreach. FEPA and COSHH, chainsaw, tree climbing and rescue techniques and Health and safety short courses also available.

GOSTA TRAINING LTD; Unit 5E Clydeway Centre, 46 Finnieston Street, Glasgow, G3 8JU. Contact Chris Botwell, Tel: 0141 248 2772 Fax: 0141 248 2453 Email: training@gostatraining.freeserve.co.uk SVQ 1, 2, 3 and 4 also Modern Apprenticeship in all options of Amenity Horticulture including Sports Turf and GTC. Manual attendance day/block release from November to March. Short courses include Pesticides, Chainsaw, First Aid, Abrasive Wheels, Manual Handling and Assessor training. Consultancy covering Noise Assessment, Site Risk Audits, Machinery Permit to Use, COSHH, Health and Safety Policy.

LANGSIDE COLLEGE, Rutherglen Campus, Buchanan Drive, Rutherglen, G73 3PF. Contact Colin S Urquhart, Tel: 0141 647 6300. Email: colinurquhart@penna.langside.ac.uk, SVQ, SQA, HNC, HND. Full-time and part-time courses in Greenkeeping, Groundsmanship, Golf Course Management, Horticulture, Land and Environment and Applied Ecology. Short courses for land-based industries including Risk Assessment and Pesticides.

OATRIDGE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, Ecclestonwork, By Br DAM, West Lothian, near Edinburgh, EH52 6HN. Contact Steve Miller: Tel: 01506 853477 Fax: 01506 853373. HNC In Golf Course Management (Part-time); Full-time National Certificate in Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Management: SVQ Level II and GTC Manual (Day and Block Released). SVQ Level III in Ground Care Machinery, full range of Amenity Horticulture, Landscaping and other land based subjects at HNC, National Certificate and SVQ Levels; Short Course - FEPA, Chainsaw, Forklift, First Aid. Email: OATRIDGE_AGRICULTURAL_COLLEGE_EDU@livc.com


MYERSCOUGH COLLEGE Bilsborrow, Preston, Lancashire, PR3 0RY. Tel: 01772 642211/642222 Fax: 01772 642333 Email: info@myerscough.ac.uk Website: www.myerscough.ac.uk Full-time courses: BSc (Hons) Turf Science, HND Turf Science and Golf Course Management: ND Turf Science: NC Grounds Maintenance and Greenkeeping: First Diploma; Turf Science: NVQ Level 2, Part-time courses NVQ Level 2 & 3 Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Maintenance (Day/block release or Fast track work-based training qualification). HND Turf Science and Golf Course Management: HNC Turf Science. Short courses: Industry Training Support Course; Myerscough Turfgrass Foundation holds an annual conference and regular education seminars.

REASEHEATH COLLEGE Nantwich, Cheshire CW5 3BZ. Tel: 01977 625313 Fax: 01977 625959 E-mail: brown@reaseheath.ac.uk Website: www.reaseheath.ac.uk. Full-time programmes - BTEC First & National Diploma. Part-time programmes - NVQ 2 & 3 Amenity Horticulture, Sports Turf (day and block release). Short courses available. Short courses: FEPA Chemical Safety, Safe Lifting, Chainsaw, Off-Road Vehicle Driving; First Aid.

BROOMSBY MELTON COLLEGE, Brookesby, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire LE14 2LJ. Situated on the A607 between Leicester and Melton Mowbray, contact Ann Hurt/Jo Lees. Telephone 01664 434291. Programmes available include NVQ Level 1, II, III & IV in Greenkeeping. Work based emphasised for all of these programmes. Short courses available in Arboriculture/Chainsaw work. FEDA certification, TDLB training.

BROOMFIELD COLLEGE Morley, Brenton, Derby DE7 6DN. Contact Admissions Office. Tel: 01332 636600. NVQ Level I and Level 2. Amenity Horticulture (Greenkeeping). Block Release course. Ten weeks duration in 14 days blocks following guidelines of GTC Training Manual. NVQ Level III gained by 9 x 3 day blocks or day release or APL service. Also available TDLB, Pesticides, Chainsaw and First Aid Training.


BRINSBURY COLLEGE, Pulborough, West Sussex, RH20 2DL. Tel: 01798 877940, Fax: 01798 875222. E-mail: Student-services@brinsbury.ac.uk Website: www.brinsbury.ac.uk Full-time, BTEC National Diploma in Horticulture (Greenkeeping option), BTEC First Diploma in New Entrant Horticulture (Greenkeeping option). City & Guilds National Certificate Horticulture (Greenkeeping & Sportsturf option), PART-TIME: NVQ 3 Sports Turf Maintenance (Day release or work based), NVQ2 Amenity Horticulture (Greenkeeping & Sports Turf options), plus varied short courses including Chainsaw, Brushcutter/Stimmer, P/A, P/A6, P/A6. B/A etc.

WARRICKSHIRE COLLEGE, Royal Leamington Spa & Moreton Morrell, Moreton Morrell, Warwick, CV35 0BL. Contact: Brian Cook Tel: 01926 319268. Email: enquiries@warkco.ac.uk Greenkeeping Courses: HNC Sports Turf & Golf Course Management (Day Release 2 year Programme); NVQ Level 2 & 3 Day Release and Workbased Option (we come to you); two year NVQ in Horticulture with Tennock Golf (option Intermate Diploma (evening class); Certificate in Turf Irrigation. Short Courses: Introduce your Committee to Turf Culture. Computing for the Greenkeeper: Various throughout the year - for details. FEPA, Chainaw Competence Certificate; TDLB; First Aid also RHS General and Diploma.
## SOUTHEAST

### A GUIDE TO THE COLLEGES AND COURSES AVAILABLE

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<tr>
<td><strong>HADLOW COLLEGE</strong> Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent, TN11 0AL</td>
<td>01732 850551</td>
<td>NVQ Level II and III Part-time Day Release with two periods of block release: NVQ Level II in Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Management, NVQ Level III in Golf Greenkeeping and Supervisory Management.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>NESCOT North East Surrey College of Technology</strong> Peigate Road, Epsom, Surrey KT17 3DS</td>
<td>020 8394 3038</td>
<td>NVQ Levels I, II and III in Amenity Horticulture (Greenkeeping options) Training and assessment for the Greenkeepers Training Manual.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SPARSHOLT COLLEGE</strong> Sparsholt, Winchester, Hants S021 2NF</td>
<td>01962 776444</td>
<td>NVQ Level II Greenkeeping Practice, NVQ Level III Greenkeeping and Supervisory Management.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>WRITELE COLLEGE</strong> Chelmsford, Essex CM1 3RR</td>
<td>01245 430430</td>
<td>NVQ Levels II and III in Amenity Horticulture, NVQ Level III in Golf Greenkeeping and Supervisory Management.</td>
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<td><strong>WARREN FARM CENTRE</strong> - West Oxfordshire College</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>PENCOED COLLEGE</strong> Pencoed, Bridgend, Cardiff CF35 3LG</td>
<td>01600 320000</td>
<td>Certificate: In Sports Turf Management.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>GREENMOUNT COLLEGE</strong> Llanwern, Newport, Gwent NP4 0JW</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CANNINGTON COLLEGE</strong> Cannington Bridgwater, Somerset TA5 1LS</td>
<td>01278 500503</td>
<td>NVQ Level II Sportsturf (Greenkeeping and Groundsmanship), NVQ Level II in Sportsturf Maintenance, Certificate in Golf Greenkeeping.</td>
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Please note that all the college details published in this guide were supplied by the colleges themselves. Greenkeeper International takes no responsibility for accuracy of information provided. Contact the college directly for prospective and comprehensive information.
Greenkeeper International, the Association's award-winning monthly magazine, is packed with up-to-date information and features, providing you with valuable research, and perhaps even helping you with your assignments. A FREE copy will ensure you are kept informed of all that's new or topical in greenkeeping (normally £36 for annual subscription). Your membership also includes a FREE copy of the BIGGA Golf Directory which provides you with an extensive guide to the products and services related to the turf industry and the contact details of major companies supplying those products and services. The Directory also includes a comprehensive greenkeeper membership section.

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For further details, contact Tracey Maddison, BIGGA Membership Services Officer
British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Aine, York Y061 1UF Tel: 01347 833800 Fax: 01347 833801 membership@bigga.co.uk

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