The groundwork is crucial when you're claiming the earth

In 1989 Maxicrop International took a major initiative to build a genuine understanding of its seaweed extract product constituents. A programme of fundamental research began, and continues to this day. It is the most comprehensive and co-ordinated work in this particular field by any company in the world. Some typical findings are shown here.

It has provided Maxicrop, and only Maxicrop, with an unparalleled knowledge of its own specific products – how they achieve improvements in turf health, appearance and quality, and how they are used to best advantage within integrated management programmes.

"Maxicrop Seaweed Extract produced a 50% increase in leaf area by more early formed tillers....Perennial ryegrass root dry weight almost trebled after 5 weeks following Maxicrop treatment. It was concluded this improved root development gives the plant a greater potential to increase nutrient uptake."
UNIVERSITY OF WALES (ABERYSTWYTH)

"Ascophyllum nodosum based seaweed extract enhanced root development of grasses grown under moisture stress, leading to better top growth."
VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

"Maxicrop produced a 150% improvement in shoot weight, largely by increasing the number of tillers....Maxicrop had a positive effect on improving root growth of creeping bent cultivars."
WRITTLE COLLEGE

"There was clear evidence of increased plant growth seen following treatment with Maxicrop, which significantly improved ryegrass cover over a four month period ensuring almost double the number of established plants."
HENRY DOUBLEDAY RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

"Treatment with Maxicrop gave a fourfold increase in leaf chlorophyll content six weeks after use."
UNIVERSITY OF PORTSMOUTH

Maxicrop®
The first name in seaweed science
May 2001

Your next issue of Greenkeeper International will be with you by June 8, 2001

Regulars

News
Pages 4, 5, 6, 8 and 9

Letters

Education
Ken Richardson looks at new educational courses available at some of the country’s colleges

Membership Update

Web watch

58 Features Listing
Helping you track down some of Greenkeeper International’s previous articles

As I see it...
BIGGA Chairman, Clive Osgood, puts in some hard work back at Walton Heath and has sympathy for those members caught up in the Foot and Mouth epidemic

Maintenance Facility Special

25 Ship Shape at Southwick Park
Scott MacCallum visits Portsmouth to see a new maintenance facility which has Naval approval

28 Top of the Copts
Jeremy Pitcher, Course Manager at Copt Heath, explains the background to the fantastic new facility he and his team now call home

Features

14 Course Closed
John Lelecan covers the country with his extensive report into how the Foot and Mouth outbreak has affected your golf courses, and what the lasting implications might be

A2B? ATV
Roland Taylor takes a look at All Terrain Vehicles and gives some useful advice on what to look out for

BTME2002: The clock’s ticking
In a brand new BTME series, Neil Thomas gives a progress report on preparations for BTME2002

31 Positive Charge
Chris Squires, Course Manager of Rutland County Golf Club, describes the pros and cons of his new electric triple machine

34 True Grit
Dr Stephen Baker reports on the research being carried out into identifying the perfect bunker sand

38 Gene Genie
Through genetic modification, science will ensure the ideal grass for every occasion and use

38 Bird’s in The Belfry
Scott MacCallum met up with Rain Bird’s Victor Jamieson at one of the company’s biggest clients

Advertisements

Advertiser Page
Avanta Seeds 44
AGCO (Massey Ferguson) 18
Alltec Mowers 21
Bathgate Silica Sand 34
Boughton Loams 30
Clayton House 46-47
Dennis 50
DGT Volumatic 33
Eagle Promotions 33
Finn House Marketing 30
Greenlink International Ltd 60
Hardi Ltd 11
ISS Irrigation 17
John Deere 59
Kawasaki 21
Laktec 50
Lely 22-23
Major Equipment 30
North Staffs Irrigation 44
On Course (Emars) 11
Prestige Sport Surfaces Ltd 34
Rigby Taylor 2, 41
Rolawn 7
Scotts/Lovington 37
Southwick Park 25
Sunder 7
Weness Farm Machinery 17

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May 2001 Greenkeeper International 3
The first BIGGA Student Chapter was inaugurated at a meeting at Gleneagles Hotel last month when the students on the Gleneagles Excellence in Golf Award Scheme were welcomed into the Association.

The Chapter which is designed to encourage student greenkeepers to become involved with the Association, and, as well as utilising the many opportunities available to them through the Association, gain experience from organisations and running their own meetings, seminars and golf days.

The Chapter will work closely with the Scottish Central Section, and its Secretary, Past President of BIGGA, John Crawford, will chair the first meeting at Gleneagles Hotel last month when the students on the scheme were welcomed into the Association.

The Chapter has joined the Gleneagles Excellence in Golf Award Scheme (GEGAS), a 12-month educational and practical training programme for young greenkeepers from around the globe.

Sponsored by Textron Golf, Turf and Specialty Products, the course is based at Gleneagles Hotel and runs from 1 September until 31 August. It is open to highly motivated students who are looking beyond a basic greenkeeping career and wish to develop their skills to become golf course managers or superintendents.

The scheme can accommodate a maximum of eight students, who will be selected from colleges and educational facilities in the UK and now, with FEGGA as a partner, from across Europe.

The scheme was established in 1994 and has grown year on year providing students with all the necessary greenkeeping skills together with a unique opportunity for personal development during the year-long work placement.

“Every student will work on the three courses at Gleneagles for eight months of the placement and then decide which style of maintenance they wish to develop further and join their preferred greenkeeping team for the remaining four months. This is a wonderful opportunity to bring together students from all over Europe to train and gain experience at one of Europe’s finest golfing resorts,” said Dean Cleaver, BIGGA Secretary.

I am particularly delighted that FEGGA have joined us and added their support for this scheme. Over the coming year we will be hosting these national and European Tour events and the successful applicants will have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to experience the many different aspects of course maintenance and preparation at the highest level,” added Jimmy Kidd, Director of Turfgrass Management at Gleneagles.

Applications are invited from students in greenkeeping and related subjects and should include a typed CV with personal details, experience, qualifications and other interests, together with a covering letter from their head tutor. They should be sent to Jimmy Kidd at Gleneagles - see www.gleneagles.com for details - or Dean Cleaver, Secretary, FEGGA, 3 Riddell Close, Alcester, Warwickshire B49 6QP.

The closing date for applications is Monday, May 28, 2001.
BIGGA Section Secretaries Meeting

The biennial Section Secretaries Meeting at BIGGA HOUSE, held at the end of March, was the ideal opportunity for BIGGA headquarters staff to update the 20 Secretaries who were able to attend on the work and initiatives currently in place. The meeting, spread over an afternoon and a morning, covered all aspects of Association business and also gave the Secretaries the opportunity to have their say.

It began with a talk on how the Association works from Executive Director, Neil Thomas, before Education and Training Manager, Ken Richardson, outlined the current education and training initiatives including BIGGA’s own CPD scheme. Further talks were given on use of the membership disc and the website before the session closed with group discussions on the Training Needs Analysis currently being undertaken.

Refreshed by dinner in Aldwark Manor Hotel, the next morning began with a talk on membership benefits from Membership Services Officer, Tracey Maddison, before Administration Manager, John Pemberton, spoke on finance and pension provision. Ken Richardson then outlined the latest recommendations by the Greenkeepers’ Salaries Review Body.

After a coffee break the meeting broke into two and Neil Thomas, on BTME and Editor, Scott MacCallum, on Greenkeeper International, spoke separately to both halves of the group. The occasion ended with a question and answer session and lunch.

“It was an ideal opportunity for Headquarters and Sections to come together and I’m sure that everyone benefited from the information sharing which took place,” said Neil Thomas.

Nick lands new and varied role at Textron

Textron Specialty Product’s new Regional Sales Manager with responsibility for golf cars, golf utility vehicles, personnel carriers and light industrial vehicles is Nick Brown. His territory encompasses East Anglia, the southern counties of England, Scotland and Ireland.

He joined the Ipswich-based manufacturer in September 1998 as Sales Planning Co-ordinator for the company’s Specialty Products range and Iseki tractors. Last year he took on additional responsibilities as Demonstration Fleet Administrator managing the logistics of the company’s demonstration fleet of turf maintenance equipment, golf cars and compact sweepers. Previous to joining Textron he spent a year as a professional rugby player in Australia.

Nick, 29, graduated from Brunel University with a BSc Hons degree in Forestry Products Technology and worked on oil palm plantations in Sumatra for a year before moving to Australia. He now lives in Woodbridge near Ipswich and in his spare time is keen supporter of his local premiership football team, Ipswich Town. “Nick’s promotion to this position demonstrates our commitment to providing structured career opportunities here at Textron. His previous experience within the Specialty Products division will add strength to the sales team and he has our best wishes for a successful career in his new role,” said Richard Byrrell, International Sales Manager, Textron Specialty Products.

Two prodigals return to BIGGA

Two familiar faces - one with an unfamiliar name - return to the Association this month.

Peter Larter is also welcomed back into the fold, returning to BIGGA HOUSE as Sales Team Leader after a spell away during which she got married to Scott.

Jennifer Whichello, better known in the industry as Panton, returns to BIGGA HOUSE as Sales Team Leader after a spell away during which she got married to Scott.

Unfair dismissal ends with £5,000 compensation

BIGGA member Aaron Mackenzie has won almost £5,000 in compensation after an industrial tribunal ruled that he had been unfairly dismissed by Abernethy Golf Club, at Nethy Bridge, Inverness-shire. The reason the club had given for his sacking was that he had refused to work on Sundays.

May 2001 Greenkeeper International 5
**Students aim for architects award**

An international line-up of students has designs on becoming the winners of the 2001 Toro Student Golf Course Architect Award, and the associated Barenbrug Award.

The nine students from Belgium, Chile, Slovenia, Germany and Croatia as well as the UK are studying on the two-year Diploma Course in Golf Course Architecture - organised by the European Institute of Golf Course Architects (EIGCA) - at Merrit Wood College, in Senny.

The award was launched in 1999 in recognition of the important role played by golf course architects in the creation of quality golf courses around the world. All the final year students have presented a written and verbal dissertation to the judges on their diploma course thesis, as well as design ideas, detailed drawings and costings for a new golf course.

The judging panel comprised David Williams, Ken Moodie and Martin Gillett, representing EIGCA; external examiner Nigel Rudd, dean of environmental studies at Herriot Watt University and Edinburgh College of Art; Bruce Jamieson, representing Toro and Paul Johnson, of Barenbrug.

David Williams commented: “The diploma course is extremely competitive and has attracted students from many different backgrounds, from all over the world. The relatively small intake allows for constructive discussion among the students and enables them to share valuable skills”.

**Lastec UK Ltd**

Lastec, Inc., a division of Wood-Mizer Products Inc., has opened a factory branch in the UK. This branch “Lastec UK Ltd” can be found at Court Lodge Farm, Kenward Rd, Yaxley, Maidstone, Kent ME18 6JP.

Lastec are the manufacturers of the Articulator Range of rotary mowers for the golf and amenity turf industry. With its patented belt drive system the Articulator range gives an excellent finish to grass cut from 25mm to 110mm over flat or undulating ground.

Lastec UK will be selling its range comprising of Greenkeepers, Secretaries and Club officials enjoyed presentations from Tracey Maddison of BIGGA, Peter Jones, Duncan McGilvary and Brian Butler.

Mathew Burrows, proprietor of Sportsworld Amenity also gave a short presentation outlining his aspirations with regard to customer service and educational support for the industry including the continued development of the day’s event.

**Carden hosts Sportsworld Educational Event**

Sportsworld Amenity held its second Annual Educational Seminar at De Vere Carden Park at the beginning of April. Seventy delegates comprising of Greenkeepers, Secretaries and Club officials enjoyed presentations from Tracey Maddison of BIGGA, Peter Jones, Duncan McGilvary and Brian Butler.

Mathew Burrows, proprietor of Sportsworld Amenity also gave a short presentation outlining his aspirations with regard to customer service and educational support for the industry including the continued development of the day’s event.

Photo shows left to right: Brian Butler, Terry Adamson, Mathew Burrows, Bill Lawson, Tracey Maddison, Duncan McGilvary, Peter Jones, Trevor Helm, Andy Mardie, Dave Raman, Andy Campbell MC and Mike Whitehouse.
You name the job, Cushman can handle it. Tough, dependable and extremely versatile.

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Top record for Longhirst Hall

Longhirst Hall has just accepted its 2000th member making it the golf club with the largest membership in England.

Managed by BIGGA members, Graham Chambers, the members were attracted by the fact that not one day has been lost to rain during the winter and the prospect of another nine holes opening this July. It is anticipated that a further nine, bringing Longhirst Hall up to 36 holes, will be opened in the summer of 2003.

Bernhard's offer Stateside trip

Bernhard's and Company is offering three students on turf-related courses the chance to win a trip to the States. Any student on a full or part-time course which leads to a turf-related recognised qualification is eligible to apply.

The fortnight's prize will include return air fares to the States, food and accommodation. During this period students will have the wonderful opportunity to work on a top US golf course and learn more about their practices.

The competition is based on research current UK golf maintenance practices and proposing suitable improvements.

Latest news?
www.bigga.org.uk/news.html

Section Event?
www.bigga.org.uk/events.html

Richard joins Gem Professional

Gem Professional has appointed Richard Page as its new Technical Services Representative for Surrey and West Sussex.

Richard was previously Head Greenkeeper of a private members' club and holds the D32/D33 National Greenkeepers Assessors qualification. Over the forthcoming weeks and months he will be spending time with the customers in his area.

Phone a friend?
www.bigga.org.uk/contact.html

Recent appointments at Rigby Taylor

Peter Reid
Rigby Taylor Limited has made three recent appointments. Peter Reid has joined as Local Authority Technical Sales Representative for Herefordshire, Essex and the London Boroughs. Peter has substantial experience in the amenity and agricultural market sectors having worked as assistant contracts manager with Canterbury City Council and as Head

TGA to have a field day

An extensive array of static and working exhibits will greet visitors attending this year's Turf grass Growers Association's Field Days, taking place in Worcesterhire on Thursday, 21 June and Friday, 22 June 2001.

To be held at Teal Farm, Wadborough, near Worcester, courtesy of TGA member, Peter Lole, the two day event is open to anyone with a professional interest or involvement in the growing, marketing, specifying, installation or after-care of quality seeded turf.

Two events which will be of value to anyone growing, specifying or installing cultivated turf are the turf grass species identification workshops being hosted on both days by independent turf consultant and agronomist, Robert Laycock, (right).

Raycox Turf awarded Rolawn authorised distributor status

Rolawn has appointed Raycox Turf as authorised distributor for the Bristol area. This new arrangement follows the scheduled closure of the Rolawn depot on the same premises in Bristol at the end of February.

The arrangement benefits both parties as it allows Rolawn to concentrate on turf production and marketing, while Raycox takes care of customer service and distribution.

The partnership will cover training and marketing support for the sale of Rolawn loam and pre-turfing fertiliser as well as Rolawn's turf.

Both parties are confident that the high level of customer service, distribution and product presentation will be maintained for old and new customers in the area.

"We're very optimistic about our distribution agreement with Raycox. It maintains our long association with our customers in Bristol and the South West. It was a big decision for us to change from having our own staff in the area, but we needed to reexamine the way in which we sell our products in the light of last year's appalling weather, but most of all the sheer enthusiasm and customer focused approach of the partners at Raycox have convinced us that this is the right step at the right time", said Terry Ryan, Rolawn's Sales and Marketing Director.

English Boys County Finals venue change to Longcliffe GC

The English Boys County Finals, scheduled to be played at Kedleston Park in Derbyshire on 3-5 September 2001, have been switched to another venue. The three-day round robin event will now take place at Longcliffe Golf Club in Leicestershire on the same dates.

Kedleston Park operates a strict soft spikes rule, which they felt they could not relax for the Finals.

Longcliffe was approached and although the club hosted the Reid Trophy only last August, it agreed to take the Boys Finals, moving its Club Championship and two other fixtures to accommodate the English Golf Union.

This is the second occasion in recent times that an EGU event has been switched because of the soft spikes rule.

Bourne Amenity's Telesales division receives a boost

Bourne Amenity has appointed Trevor Monk to work alongside Roger Burrows to help run the company's telesales division.

Trevor, who is a Sussex County bowler and reached the last 16 in the National Indoor Champion of Champions Bowling Finals, was National Contracts Manager at the Department of Environment before joining Bourne Amenity.

Peter Bourne, Managing Director, said that the company had developed its telesales division to enable it to provide a fast and efficient back up to its area sales managers.
Miniature golf: The way ahead?

The world's first commercial golf court will be opened later this month at Lensbury conference centre, at Teddington Lock, by Laura Davies. A golf court is a new concept in golf, designed by Gulf Golf R&D, that enables a full 18-hole round to be played on 18 acres of land compared to the average 150-acre golf course. The concept can also be adapted to fit smaller areas of land.

Mathematically designed to include four greens and eight tees, a golf court offers players all the challenges of a full 18-hole course, incorporating Par 3, 4 and 5 holes on a smaller area and can be completed in just three hours. The game on a golf court is very easy to follow; the tee and yardage markers and flags are all colour coded. Each hole is different they vary in both length and perspective. A golf court is as safe as a golf course and each golf court will undergo a PGA safety audit.

Like a tennis court, a golf court can be booked by the hour offering the golfer the flexibility of playing six holes in one hour, 12 holes in two hours or a full 18 holes in just three hours. The game is considerably quicker than on a conventional golf course because of the system of play means waiting time is virtually eliminated.

The potential for golf courts is enormous. Hotels, conference centres, property developments, universities, inner city areas and leisure clubs are just some of the areas with limited space that could feature a golf court.

A golf court is around £300k. It is inexpensive to maintain, requires very little watering and, being so compact, is easy to floodlight for night play.

"It means having the opportunity to play golf safely and it will bring golf to a whole new category of players for whom golf has not been feasible or available before," said Derek Hoskins, Camperdown GC, near Edinburgh and have been a BIGGA member for almost five years and would be delighted to have any member or company within the industry who feels they might like to make a contribution towards the trip.

Paul Davidson, 7 Greenhall Crescent, Gorebridge, EH23 4AL

Work acknowledged

In the March issue, you carried an article entitled ‘Are your greens up to scratch?’ In this article the author somewhat obscurely referred to ‘research work carried out by Steve Haake...’. To enlighten your readers Steve Haake was then a research student working at the STRI and the University of Aston under the University Interdisciplinary Higher Degrees Scheme. I was his industrial supervisor at STRI and Dr Alastair Cochran was his University supervisor and also author of the ground breaking book on the physics of golf ‘The Search for the Perfect Swing’. The project arose out of the realisation that there was considerable information about the impact by the club-head on the ball and its subsequent trajectory but no-one had any quantitative information about the impact of the ball on the turf and the consequences of different turfgrass species and management factors on ball bounce and rebound. Steve Haake carried out the first to address these issues. The work was reported in the STRI Journal and elsewhere. The front cover photo is copyright of the STRI. The work was done under grant aid from SERC with additional financial support from the R&A and the Acushnet Corporation which should also be rightfully acknowledged.

Dr Mike Canaway, Former Chief Executive, STRI

Editor's Note: Apologies for not acknowledging the copyright of the front cover picture and the involvement of the STRI and others in the paper which acted as a basis for the article in March's magazine. We were unaware of the information listed above

High praise for Scottish Conference

I would like to pass on my congratulations to all concerned with organising The Scottish Conference on March 6, in Dunfermline. It was my first visit and despite some technical hitches it was a well run event and enjoyed by all the speakers involved were excellent.

Personally, I especially enjoyed John Philip's ideas on how a golf course should be run. Controversial? Maybe, but certainly thought provoking. Without a doubt!

Jim McKeon's talk on The Celtic Manor was a real eye opener. A harsh lesson that money can't buy everything. It stands as a reminder that we are all at the mercy of the weather. Fortunately it all came good in the end.

A special mention should go to Tim Forsyth. The work was done under grant aid from SERC with additional financial support from the R&A and the Acushnet Corporation which should also be rightfully acknowledged.

Work recognised

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the very informative Scottish Conference's meeting held at the end of March. I left with a better understanding of the teamwork required to run the Association and how all the staff are there to help the members with benefits, education, employment problems and many other services.

At present our industry is taking a battering with the wet weather and the foot and mouth outbreak, but it is nice to know that all the team at BIGGA HQ are working hard for all the members.

Ian Willett, East Anglia Section Secretary

Further information from: www.kawasaki.co.uk

Letters

A mountain to climb

I have been selected for a place on the Seven Summits Project, a series of international expeditions for Vente Scouts and Young Leaders aged between 16 and 22 where we will plan to climb the highest summit in each continent.

With the surnames of Mount Elbrus, in the Russian Caucasus; Mount McKinley, in Alaska and Aconcagua, in the Argentinian Andes already completed I will be part of the team of seven other boys, five girls and three Mountain Leaders attempting to scale Mount Kilimanjaro, in Tanzania - the highest mountain in Africa, planned for this July.

The aim is to complete the project by the year 2010, although it is hoped that the ascent of Mount Everest will be in 2007 to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Scouting.

The expedition is to be funded entirely by the member's own efforts - approximately £1500 each, with a personal contribution of £300. Sponsors are being sought for specialist equipment which is essential when mountaineering at altitude.

I work at Bromleyknowe Golf Club near Edinburgh and have been a BIGGA member for almost five years and would be delighted to have any member or company within the industry who feels they might like to make a contribution towards the trip.

Paul Davidson, 7 Greenhall Crescent, Gorebridge, EH23 4AL

YOU'VE GOT MAIL!

If you've got an email account, and want to keep up to date with the latest news and events from the turfcare industry, drop us an email, and we'll add you to our ever increasing list of online subscribers. We'll then inform you of any forthcoming events and features via email.

Simply send an email to: updates@bigga.co.uk quoting your name and Membership number, and we'll do the rest - it's that easy!

Help required

I require information for a dissertation. I am working on the subject of organic content in rootzone materials, except for peat, that are used within the golf or general sports turf and horticultural industry. If anyone constructs or maintains terrain of the above criteria, I would be interested in any information and also any possibilities of using such a site for a case study.

Ian Willett, East Anglia Section Secretary

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The Scottish Conference on March 6, Dunfermline.

Provoking? Without a doubt!

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For more information contact the BIGGA office.

Address your letters to The Editor, Greenkeeper International, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Aline, York YO61 1UF, or email them to reception@bigga.co.uk

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May 2001 Greenkeeper International 9

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Dan Wheeler, jwhooer@uk.packardboll.com

Further information from: www.kawasaki.co.uk

Kawasaki launch new online service

A new, online, engine service is now available from Kawasaki Commercial Products Direct.

Full specification, dimensions and performance curve details are available to visitors to the site who will be able to download data and request further information with a direct link to Kawasaki's head office at Bourne End, Buckinghamshire.

"It's another significant step forward for us in our ongoing development of our engine business in the UK and one we intend to take even further in the months ahead," commented Jack Ford, Sales and Marketing Manager for Kawasaki Commercial Products Division.

"A new, online, engine service is now available from Kawasaki Commercial Products Direct.

The search engine includes a liquid-cooled engine range - horizontal and vertical shaft, Kawasaki introduced two further models during the autumn. The 13 hp, FE400 engine is a natural extension to the FE family of engines while the liquid

Greenkeeper International 9 May 2001

functions - and I include myself in that. Go along to an outing, conference or whatever, I always find a warm welcome awaits. The knowledge available through all concerned, from organisers, to fellow greenkeepers is invaluable. The camaraderie I believe is unique to our own trade and I always come away with new friends.

Have a good season everyone. Keep up the good work.

Derek Hoskins, Camperdown GC, Dundee
This month, BIGGA’s Education and Training Manager, Ken Richardson, reports on some of the latest education and training developments available to Greenkeepers, and gives updates on the entry progress of our various competitions.

Top Level Greenkeeping degree

Observant readers will have noticed an announcement, in the April edition of this magazine, about an exciting new course for greenkeepers which starts in September this year when Cranfield University introduce a Master of Science Degree in Sports Surface Technology.

The course aims to combine academic and technical skills, covering advanced principles of soil, water and vegetation management plus mechanisation, construction and business management.

The course is split into 12 modules.

You’ve got m@!! If you’ve got an email account why not send an email to the education department, where we can place you into our exclusive exhibition mailing address book. We can then keep you up-to-date with exhibition news and events as they happen.

ON COURSE WITH BIGGA EDUCATION

Golf Course Preparation Video £14.95 to BIGGA members £29.95 to non-members
Golf Course Reconstruction Video £14.95 to BIGGA members £29.95 to non-members
Ecology Book £14.95 to BIGGA members £29.95 to non-members

Equivalent to a first class honours degree from a UK university or an equivalent qualification. In certain cases, a blend of qualifications and relevant experience may be accepted.

For further details contact Alex Vickers, Course Director Myerscough College Sports Surfaces Technology, Croxteth, Liverpool, L45 4DT.

New Learning Innovation From Myerscough College

Myerscough College recently launched their Internet learning platform. Pioneered in Knutsford at the Greenkeeping Academy from the college’s Croxteth Park Centre-Liverpool, the system currently has over 40 students studying varying NVQ’s from level 2 to level 4 amenity management, from the UK to Williamsburg USA. Endorsed by the GTC the system can be adapted to suit everyone’s learning needs from craft level 2 to NVQ 4 for Course Managers.

The Myerscough on-line System is a web-based learning platform that helps the teaching and learning of sport turf NVQ’s Levels 1 – 4. Students can be engaged in an effective learning process with computerised content, construction and interaction with other students as well as their on-line tutor. Students are supplied with their own personal password that will log them into the specific chosen qualification where they can access various relevant course materials and support packages enabling them to complete the NVQ qualification.

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Top Level Greenkeeping degree

Observant readers will have noticed an announcement, in the April edition of this magazine, about an exciting new course for greenkeepers which starts in September this year when Cranfield University introduce a Master of Science Degree in Sports Surface Technology.

The course aims to combine academic and technical skills, covering advanced principles of soil, water and vegetation management plus mechanisation, construction and business management.

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Ecology Book £14.95 to BIGGA members £29.95 to non-members

Equivalent to a first class honours degree from a UK university or an equivalent qualification. In certain cases, a blend of qualifications and relevant experience may be accepted.

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