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.

For more information contact the GTC on: 01347 838640 or visit: www.the-gtc.co.uk

FREE ENTRY INTO SEMINARS FOR STUDENTS UPON PRESENTATION OF STUDENT CARD!

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT THE LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT ON: 01347 833 800

ASK FOR EITHER SAMI COLLINS OR RACHAEL DUFFY

OR EMAIL SAMI@BIGGA.CO.UK
ENGLAND

MERRIST WOOD CAMPUS
OF GUILDFORD COLLEGE
Worplesdon, Guildford, Surrey GU3 3PE
Contact: Learner Services
Tel: 01483 884340
Email: mrsinfo@guildford.ac.uk Web: www.guildford.ac.uk

Information: Part-time courses: NVQ Level 2 Sports turf college day release and workplace visits/assessments, New Level 2 Sports turf in conjunction with IOG / NPTC, NVQ Level 3 Sports turf on-line distance learning. Level 3 National Award college day release for those without qualified workplace assessors. HNC Turfgrass Science and Management college day release over 2 years. HND day release 1 extra year plus a Top-up BSc Degree for HND graduates part-time over 2 years. Foundation Degree in Sports Turf Science subject to validation. Plus various NPTC short courses including Irrigation Certificate Course, Turf Maintenance equipment and Operation of Mowers throughout the year. Please contact us for up-to-date listings, qualifications and advice. Open evenings held regularly at the Campus.

MYERSCROUGH COLLEGE
Bibildown, Penryn, Cornwall. TR1 6RY
Contact: Stewart Brown
Tel: 01326 442805 Web: www.myerscough.ac.uk

Information: Myrescrogh College is a leading centre for Sports Turf education and training in Europe and has excellent facilities supported by industry. These include a golf course, winter games pitch, an artificial grass pitch, and extensive library, workshop and laboratory resources. Specialist machinery and equipment is used throughout the curriculum to support the development of student learning and understanding of the practical, technical and scientific aspects of their chosen course and career. Courses are available for all levels from National Certificate to an Honours Degree in Turfgrass Science. Courses are available for full-time attendance, part-time or on an Online basis. OurFdSc Sports Turf and BSc Turfgrass Science courses are uniquely available ONLINE and have students enrolled throughout the UK, Europe and the American continent. Our Work-based Training group offer NVQs in the workplace from levels 2-4.

WARWICKSHIRE COLLEGE
Moreton Morrell Centre, Warwick CV35 9RA
Contact: Pat Festor
Tel: 01926 318347 Fax: 01926 318300
Email: p.festor@warwickcol.ac.uk

Information: Greenkeeping courses include: Foundation Degree Sports Turf Management (2 yr full-time, 3 yr part-time), NVQ Level 2 & 3 day release and work-based options, NPTC Level 2 National Certificate Sports & Amenity Turf Management (1 yr full-time, 2 yrs part-time). A full list of horticulture, landscape design, arborcultural and forestry courses available at all levels. Short courses include: Chainsaw Operation and Maintenance, Pesticide Application, Fences/Wooden Structures, Landscape Design, Tractor Driving, Hedgelaying and more. Warwickshire College also offer a range of land-based courses, areas include: Animal Welfare, Equine and Agriculture.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON BECOMING A BIGGA MEMBER PLEASE CONTACT EITHER VANESSA OR BRAD ON 01347 833800 OR EMAIL: VANESSA@BIGGA.CO.UK

PLUMPTON COLLEGE
Ditchling Road, Plumpton, Lewes, East Sussex BN7 3AE
Contact: David Blackmun
Tel: 01273 890545 Fax: 01273 890071
Email: enquiries@plumpton.ac.uk Web: www.plumpton.ac.uk Centre of Vocational Excellence (COVE).

Information: Foundation degree in Horticulture and Garden Design, National Diploma in Amenity Horticulture, National Award (Garden Design), First Diploma in Horticulture.


REASEHEATH COLLEGE
Nantwich, Cheshire CW5 6DF
Contact: Gareth Phillips or Chad Spicer
Tel: 01270 613235 Fax: 01270 625655
Email: enquiries@reaseheath.ac.uk Web: www.reaseheath.ac.uk

Information: Foundation Degree and Higher National Certificate in Golf and Sports Turf Management; National Diploma in Amenity Horticulture with Sports Turf; NIYO levels 2 & 3 in Sports Turf; Apprenticeships; NPTC Qualifications.

On-site facilities include a commercially operating golf course, football and rugby pitches, Crewe Alexandra training grounds.

WRITTLE COLLEGE
Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 3RR
Contact: The Registry
Tel: 01245 420200 Fax: 01245 420456
Email: info@writtle.ac.uk Web: www.writtle.ac.uk

BIGGA MEMBERSHIP

STUDENT BENEFITS

MEMBERS HANDBOOK
A free yearly copy of this indispensable tool, enabling members to track down professional help and keep contact with contemporaries.

FREE FIELD GUIDES
A set of field guides is available to every member on request. This handy guide is produced in an easy to use format and is an aid to course identification. Call 01347 833800.

BIGGA LIBRARY
The BIGGA Library boasts over 650 books available to borrow for up to six weeks. The only cost is that of returning the book to HQ.

NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES
When you join you are automatically given membership of one of the 27 sections around the country. As an active member you can attend golf days and other social events on a regular basis enabling you to network amongst others in the industry. Look at the ‘Around the Green’ section for contact details.

EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES
All Members are invited to a Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Scheme, which records education and training achievement. Regional training courses are offered alongside regional and national seminars and workshops.

CAR LEASING
Driving a brand new car couldn’t be easier. Bigga has teamed up with Lex FreeChoice to offer an exclusive scheme, which allows you and your family members to drive the car you’ve always wanted at a price you can afford. Call 0800 419 930 and quote BIGGA.

CAR RENTAL
BIGGA have enrolled in National’s Affinity Leisure Programme that offers members exclusive rates on car and van hire in the UK and on international car hire in over 80 countries. Ring 0870 191 6950 and quote A099084 for UK Car hire, A099085 for UK Van Hire and 8573290 for International Car Hire.

INSURANCE QUOTATION SERVICE
A quotation service is available to members on a wide range of insurance products. Call 01603 828255 and quote UniBG0306.

BIGGA WEBSITE – WWW.BIGGA.ORG.UK
Exclusive access to the Members area of the website. Interact with other greenkeepers on the bulletin board or check out the latest recruitment vacancies in the industry.

MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTION
A monthly copy of BIGGA’s award winning magazine delivered free to your door, keeping you up to date with all that’s new in the industry. This publication could prove to be a valuable study tool.

JOBS ONLINE
You will find greenkeeping jobs on the BIGGA website for apprentice and assistant greenkeepers.

ABOVE: Greenkeeper International magazine
LEFT: The BIGGA website
CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Direction indicator (5)
4 Hospital department dealing with X-rays (9)
9 Physically or psychologically painful (9)
10 Pertain (to) (5)
11 Producer and writer of On The Hour and The Day Today (7,7)
13 Mottled, tawny-coated cats (7)
15 Strident, rowdy (7)
16 Deer meat used as food (7)
17 Mass-mailing macro virus discovered in 1999 (7)
18 Novel thought to be based on Scottish castaway Alexander Selkirk (8,6)
22 Japanese verse consisting of three short lines (5)
23 1973 album by The Eagles (9)
24 Carry on despite adversity (9)
25 Preserved county of south west Wales (5)

DOWN
1 Pleasing to the eye (10)
2 Environment in which a person or thing is dominant (5)
3 Its meetings traditionally end with a rendition of Jerusalem (6,9)
4 Warfarin is typically used as this (3-6)
5 Russian country house (5)
6 The last novel completed by Charles Dickens (3,6,6)
7 Meddling, offensively intrusive (9)
8 Royal house whose emblem was the white rose (4)
12 Run-off area for out-of-control vehicles (6,4)
14 Cartridge belt worn over the shoulder (9)
15 Recall past memories (9)
19 Move surreptitiously; sashay (5)
20 Fine metal particles created by grinding etc. (5)
21 Cut of meat which includes part of a rib (4)

QUICK ‘NINE HOLE’ QUIZ

1 What is the most popular sport in the world, played by more than 20 million people in more than 140 countries?
2 In what sport do players take long and short corners?
3 What is the number one played sport in Canada?
4 What is the name of the Leicester Football Club stadium?
5 What’s the most popular sport in Thailand?
6 What is the highest-achievable break in snooker?
7 What’s the top sport in the United States?
8 What is the most popular sport in Norway?
9 By what name is Edson Arantes do Nascimento better known?

MONSTER SUDOKU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 to 9 and the letters A,B and C.

SQUIGGLY SUDOKU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 12 box shape contains the numbers 1 to 9.

IN THE SHED ANSWERS ON PAGE 66
ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION
BIGGA’S Health & Safety series produced by Xact

If you are unfortunate enough to have an accident at your Club, the causes that led to the event should be investigated; To comply with legislation; To prevent a recurrence; To help control insured and uninsured losses; To provide full disclosure to any injured parties of the circumstances that led to the accident and also aid your insurance company in the event of a claim.

A properly conducted accident investigation will enable you to: Understand the reasons for the event; Understand the true working practices within the Club and if your procedures are being adhered to; Understand whether your existing risk assessments and control measures are suitable.

Accidents that have caused serious injury or fatalities may have to be investigated by the enforcing authorities in which case the accident scene should be left undisturbed. Otherwise when carrying out an investigation: Start the investigation ASAP; If the accident has resulted in serious injury leave the scene of the accident undisturbed until all the evidence has been gathered—unless to do so leaves the area dangerous; Take photographs of the scene if appropriate; Gather documentary evidence, as applicable; Assure all involved at the outset the objective of the internal investigation is not to apportion blame but to ensure all possible steps are taken to prevent recurrence; Aim to produce a clear, concise report which documents findings, recommendations and a suggested programme for their implementation.

The person carrying out the investigation should aim to take the following into account: Collect ‘facts’ NOT ‘opinions’; Witnesses interviewed MUST have been present at the time of the accident for their statements to be of value; Conditions that may have contributed to the incident should be noted; Machinery/equipment which may have been involved in/contributed to the incident should be identified and removed from service until the investigation is completed; Maintenance records should be checked whenever machinery/equipment is involved.

The accident investigation report should include the following: Details of the location of the incident within the premises together with a plan/layout of the area; Any photographs of the location or any equipment involved; Full names and addresses of witnesses along with their witness statements signed and dated by them on each page; Details of any machinery/equipment or substances involved in the incident; The investigators conclusions; A list of recommendations for preventing a recurrence.

Should the incident be subject to further investigation by the local enforcing authority or the employer’s insurance assessors, the employer should ensure all employees fully co-operate with the inspector(s).

An effort must be made to investigate all accidents. There are lessons to be learned from any safety related incident. The tendency is to look for the immediate cause, rather than beyond this, and to identify other contributory factors.

WHAT’S YOUR NUMBER?

Name: David Green
Company: Terrain Aeration Services Ltd
Position: Managing Director

How long have you been in the industry?
“On and off for 18 years, full time for seven.”

How did you get into the industry?
“When Terralift made my wife redundant and I was persuaded to take part in the buyout that resulted. The new company was desperately short of engineering knowledge - I was fortunate enough to be able to fill the gap.”

What other jobs have you done?
“All sorts of jobs, from working in a food factory making pies when a student, to a PAYE wage slave.”

What do you like about your current job?
“I am my own boss, I can make and implement decisions without having to play politics and be politically correct. There is great personal reward in creating a viable company from next to nothing and watching it grow.”

What industry changes have you seen?
“A growth in the pressures upon sports turf resources, more matches per month, more rounds of golf and a growing demand for high quality year round playing surfaces that can stand heavy use even in winter.”

“How did you get into the industry?”
“Play chess on the Internet.”

Where do you see yourself in 10 years time?
“Looking back with satisfaction at the machinery which I have continued to develop and build. Eventually I hope to be able to retire to my shed with some different (railway and electrical control) engineering matters to tax my, by then, fast diminishing little brain cells!”

Who do you consider your ‘best friends’ in the industry?
“Pete Britton, Phil Evans and Carol Dutton, our PR specialist. Harry Jurgens, of AFT Trenchers, whose multilingual skills amaze me and have been offered free to us at some particularly useful times. My wife, Lynda, who knows half the industry and is able to identify anyone of them by voice alone.”

What is your lucky number?
“13, I was raised for 20 years at No 13 without too many disastrous consequences!”

Pick a number
“13”
David has picked Martin Ward from Symbio.
ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS… ARE POWER TOOLS FOR THE WORKSHOP

By James de Havilland

Rechargeable battery power tools have developed to the point where a mains corded tool is often seen as old fashioned. But are all rechargeable battery powered workshop tools equal?

Take a stroll around a big DIY superstore and the power tool section will no doubt include a selection of carry cases stuffed with all sorts of battery powered screwdrivers, circular saws, sanders, jigsaw etc. Some of these kits, branded with a name you probably have never heard off, will be priced extremely competitively; how about a starting price of under £50 for a three piece kit with a couple of batteries and a charger included?

For occasional DIY operation, these kits may well be fine. For professional use, well you get what you pay for. Really cheap power tools have limitations that will include slow to charge batteries, limited battery life, low power, high weight etc. Move up to known brands to include DeWalt, Makita, Hitachi, Ryobi and Bosch and prices climb significantly. As you would expect, so does performance, longevity and overall quality.

To compare the ultra cheap DIY items with well known power tool brands, however, is a bit naughty. A cheap and wobbly powered screwdriver that retails for a few pounds will struggle to match a quality item costing perhaps £70 to £130. The challenge is to compare own brand tools from leading suppliers such as Spaldings, with the better known OEM manufacturers.

First, consider some of the arguments put forward by premium tool makers Makita. The Japanese manufacturer has been in business for 100 years, and currently has seven ISO registered production plants around the World, including in Telford; this UK facility exports 80% of its production and Makita claims it is now Britain’s leading professional power tool manufacturer. The company’s range currently extends to some 600 items and includes petrol and electric chainsaws, brushcutters, hedge trimmers and mowers.

Getting back to power tools, Makita can rightly claim its rechargeable battery tools now offer higher torque levels, greater impact joules, lower weight, reduced vibration risks and extended operational life than those it offered a decade ago. Battery technology has also developed. Cordless tool batteries were originally nickel cadmium NiCad types, nickel metal hydride Ni-MH coming next to offer a reduced need to discharge fully before charging. First generation Ni-Cad batteries had a ‘memory’ effect that meant they needed to be fully discharged before re-charging. Modern cordless tools are now starting to be powered by Lithium-Ion batteries. These ensure a modern tool can pack a powerful punch for longer periods. Take the Makita 18v BTW251as an example. Fitted with a ½” square socket drive, this 1.7kg power wrench generates 230Nm or 170 lb-ft of torque. Typical vehicle wheel nuts are tightened to 65Nm / 48lb-ft, a crankshaft pulley typically having its retaining nut tweaked up to and 140Nm / 105 lb-ft. So a tool like this has the twist action to suit some pretty tight fasteners. The tool also generates up to 3,000 blows per minute to help free-off tight nuts. Dependent upon model, Makita impact drivers, with a ¼ inch square drive, will be priced from around £200.

Modern cordless tools are now starting to be powered by Lithium-Ion batteries. These ensure a modern tool can pack a powerful punch for longer periods. Take the Makita 18v BTW251as an example. Fitted with a ½” square socket drive, this 1.7kg power wrench generates 230Nm or 170 lb-ft of torque. Typical vehicle wheel nuts are tightened to 65Nm / 48lb-ft, a crankshaft pulley typically having its retaining nut tweaked up to and 140Nm / 105 lb-ft. So a tool like this has the twist action to suit some pretty tight fasteners. The tool also generates up to 3,000 blows per minute to help free-off tight nuts. Dependent upon model, Makita impact drivers, with a ¼ inch square drive, will be priced from around £200.

Modern cordless tools are now starting to be powered by Lithium-Ion batteries. These ensure a modern tool can pack a powerful punch for longer periods. Take the Makita 18v BTW251as an example. Fitted with a ½” square socket drive, this 1.7kg power wrench generates 230Nm or 170 lb-ft of torque. Typical vehicle wheel nuts are tightened to 65Nm / 48lb-ft, a crankshaft pulley typically having its retaining nut tweaked up to and 140Nm / 105 lb-ft. So a tool like this has the twist action to suit some pretty tight fasteners. The tool also generates up to 3,000 blows per minute to help free-off tight nuts. Dependent upon model, Makita impact drivers, with a ¼ inch square drive, will be priced from around £200.

Modern cordless tools are now starting to be powered by Lithium-Ion batteries. These ensure a modern tool can pack a powerful punch for longer periods. Take the Makita 18v BTW251as an example. Fitted with a ½” square socket drive, this 1.7kg power wrench generates 230Nm or 170 lb-ft of torque. Typical vehicle wheel nuts are tightened to 65Nm / 48lb-ft, a crankshaft pulley typically having its retaining nut tweaked up to and 140Nm / 105 lb-ft. So a tool like this has the twist action to suit some pretty tight fasteners. The tool also generates up to 3,000 blows per minute to help free-off tight nuts. Dependent upon model, Makita impact drivers, with a ¼ inch square drive, will be priced from around £200.
Do a bit of shopping, and Makita prices can look a bit on the high side. But it is important to do a true like for like comparison, some less expensive alternatives not having the same battery stamina, torque ratings or features. Good battery performance counts for a lot and, with its latest Lithium-ion cells, Makita certainly seems to offer something that is above the ordinary. Also see the picture showing drill internals. Although the items pictured highlight the difference between a cheap drill that was designed to look like a Makita, the message is much the same. You get what you pay for.

Or do you? Spaldings, well known supplier of tools and other workshop goodies, champions its own Truecraft brand. Although the company sells a range of leading brand power tools, certain items, such as its Truecraft 19.2V Cordless Impact Wrench, certainly appear to offer a lot of value for the money. This particular model has a torque rating of a whopping 400Nm / 295 lb-ft and is supplied with a battery that is claimed to run for hours from a fast 1 hour charge. Price is around £230.

This is a powerful bit of kit that is well respected by professional users. It helps summarise what is now offered on the cordless power tool market. As long as the really cheap stuff is avoided, a mid-price tool may be fine as long as it is backed by a good supplier. Otherwise, it can pay to stick with a well known quality brand. For those who remain to be convinced of the value of a modern cordless tool, try an impact wrench. The chances are you will end up buying one. They are truly versatile items of kit that make swapping over wheels, changing tines and general workshop ‘nut twirling’ an absolute breeze.

**BATTERY POWER**

Ni-Cad provided the first truly portable power tool driving force but had two serious limitations. A Ni-Cad cell needs to be completely flattened prior to being re-charged. If a partial charge is left in the cell before recharging, the cell will take on a ‘memory’ that will only charge it to a level up to the charge that was left. Charge a half charged battery, and its capacity would be reduced to around half its potential capacity thereafter. This perhaps over states the case, but there is no doubt the operational life of the battery was dependent upon good management. Disposal of Ni-Cad cells remains an environmental risk; these types should always be recycled correctly by a tool dealer.

Nickel metal hydride, Ni-MH removed this memory problem, allowing anytime charging. These types remain the most popular and for most users they will be fine. Lithium-ion chemistry is the next development stage. It builds upon the proven dependability of Ni-MH but packs the same amount of punch in a package offering a 40% reduction in weight. This has a number of advantages, including being able to put a higher amp hour and higher voltage battery into a pack that is of a similar size to a lower capacity Ni-MH alternative. Or, the same power can be generated from a lighter cell, boosting and manoeuvrability and enabling the design of a more ergonomic tool. Compared to a Ni-Cad battery, a top quality Lithium-ion cell should deliver up to four times the work cycles during its lifetime and will hold its charge for long inactive periods in storage. This is of critical importance if a tool will see extended periods between use.
Polybed – changing the way you’ll think about drainage.

Visit us on Stand Q20 at Harrogate Week

COST EFFECTIVE • EASY INSTALLATION • SUSTAINABLE

Specifically designed and manufactured in the UK to replace existing drainage methods, Polybed can be used in a wide variety of applications including soakaways and land drainage, sports pitch and golf course repairs, bio-treatment plants, septic tanks and retaining walls.

The Polybed system comprises 3m lengths of perforated, single or twin-wall plastic pipe surrounded by a 100mm layer of lightweight, non-biodegradable recycled aggregate. The system offers an enhanced void ratio of 35% and substitutes the need to use gravel and stone.

Polybed is extremely lightweight and easy to handle and can be installed up to 4 times quicker than traditional methods, significantly reducing plant usage and soil cartaway - delivering savings in both labour and overall costs.

For further information or to request a brochure please contact us at:

Forest Group UK
Stardens Works
Tewkesbury Road
Newent
Gloucestershire
GL18 1LG

Tel: 01531 828960
Fax: 01531 828968
Email: info@polybed.co.uk

www.polybed.co.uk
HARROGATE WEEK
YOUR GUIDE TO
THE ANNUAL
GROUNDSCARE EVENT

OVER 200 EXHIBITORS COVERING THE ENTIRE INDUSTRY
A COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME
CAREERS CLINIC
MEDIA CENTRE
THE GREATEST CHOICE OF GROUNDSCARE PRODUCTS AND SERVICES
ADVICE FROM INDUSTRY EXPERTS
INVALUABLE NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES
FREE PARK AND RIDE

WWW.HARROGATEWEEK.ORG.UK
A NEW YEAR, A NEW YOU

Harrogate Week has been established for 20 years and during that time has grown to become a must-see groundscare event for many satisfied visitors.

I don’t know about you but I always feel the year gets going when we arrive at Harrogate. Christmas and New Year are consigned to the history books, we’ve had a couple of weeks to break our New Year’s resolutions and we’re ready to go.

Harrogate Week always sets me up for the year in a positive manner and I’m sure it’s the same for the thousands of turf professionals and those involved within the groundscare industry, from all sides of the industry, who flock to the historic North Yorkshire spa town.

Harrogate Week 2008 with its regular elements of BTME, incorporating ClubHouse; the world renowned Continue to Learn programme; a Careers’ Clinic, Job Shop, Internet Café, banquets, lunches and fringe events ensures that a well planned visit sets you up for the year ahead. From a training and development standpoint there isn’t a workshop or seminar that doesn’t include a nugget of information which might help some aspect of your professional life. The most comprehensive education programme that BIGGA has ever put together will get the brain going into overdrive, and it’s not just of benefit to turf professionals and BIGGA members. Many other golfing and sporting bodies are involved in the week with seminars by the R&A, EGU and GCMA and many other workshops that are particularly pertinent for turf professionals from other sporting arenas.

Five halls packed with exhibitors representing every element of the fine turf industry should ensure plenty of assistance with those difficult purchasing decisions.

After a long day in the lecture theatres and halls where better than the restaurants and bars of Harrogate to share experiences and laughs with friends and colleagues? And it’s as valuable for the Harrogate rookie as it is to the experienced campaigner. Attend Harrogate Week and you can be sure you will leave with many more friends and acquaintances than you arrived. That equates to more shared experiences and more potential solutions to groundscare problems.