BIGGA MEMBERSHIP

FULL MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

FREE LEGAL HELPLINE
Access 24 hours a day, 365 days a year for you and your family living at the same address. Advice on employment matters, health and safety issues, consumer rights and any other legal matter.

PERSONAL ACCIDENT INSURANCE
Cover for time off work due to an accident at home, work or even on holiday as well as one-off payments dependent on the type of injury. Call 01277 251000 and ask for Ira Mulish.

EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES
All members are invited to sign up to a Continuing Professional Development (CPD) scheme, which records education and training achievement.

BIGGA REGIONAL TRAINING
BIGGA provide quality education and training courses at a minimum cost thanks to the support of Golden and Silver Key Members who contribute to the Education and Development Fund. Call 01347 833800.

CONTINUE TO LEARN
Run during Harrogate Week, Continue to Learn provides members with a week of seminars, workshops and debates ensuring there is something for everyone.

HARROGATE WEEK
Members are invited to attend Europe’s largest indoor turf exhibition which runs alongside the Clubhouse Exhibition every January at Harrogate.

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.

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

DISCOUNTED WORKWEAR
BIGGA have teamed up with ARC0, the leading supplier of workwear, safety clothing and maintenance products to offer members 20% discount on a choice of goods. Call 01482 611773
*Discount not available on selected products.

CAR LEASING
Driving a brand new car couldn’t be easier. BIGGA has teamed up with Lex FleetChoice 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. A095866 for UK Van Hire and 8573290 for International Car Hire.

FREE FIELD GUIDES
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INSURANCE QUOTATION SERVICE
A quotation service is available to members on a wide range of insurance products. Call 05003 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.

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.

BIGGA HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS
Scholarships are available thanks to the support of Farnswood Jacobson to help members move to higher education. The scholarships are awarded for courses such as N/SVQ Level 4, HNC, HND and a Bachelors or Masters degree.

OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP SUPPORT TEAM
An opportunity to be part of the support team that assist in the preparation of the Open Championship Course, before and after, each day’s play and the on course team which accompanies each match. Opportunities also exist to be a part of other Championships held throughout the year.

SUBSCRIPTION TO GKI MAGAZINE
A monthly copy of the Association award winning magazine delivered to your door. The magazine, valued at £42 per year, will keep you up to date with all that’s new in the industry.

Water proofing water features can be costly if a complete liner is required. However, if there is clay in the subsoil this can be used to help waterproof to above the top water level. Bentonite, which is an inert ‘fillers earth’ can be used to waterproof the base of the lake, depending on the type of soil.

One of our most successful methods of waterproofing lakes is by using a ‘bentonite Slurry Cut off Trench’ which are installed in existing, leaking dams or around the lower sides of lakes. They rely on an impervious layer of soil under the lake which the bentonite Slurry Cut off trench is excavated into. This method of waterproofing is relatively low cost and successful. It is interesting that a trench filled with bentonite slurry does not cave in. A bentonite slurry cut off trench can also be used to bring underground streams, or water courses to the surface.

Golf Courses can be a wonderful habitat for birds and wildlife to such an extent that some golf courses have been granted an SSSI status. An environmental lake can attract all kinds of birds and to see the swallows diving over the water is an attractive sight.

Although common waterfowl are the most common birds to be attracted to a new lake, occasionally a tufted duck or even swans will take up residence, which is wonderful. Dragonflies, water voles and moorhens with their fluffy black chicks are also interesting inhabitants.

Although a golfer is concentrating on his game, to be in the natural countryside with views of a magnificent lake, surrounded by wonderful fauna and flora can only add to their pleasure. With the need for a ‘greener world’ and golf courses becoming more ‘family orientated’, the enhancement of the environment is even more important. Water plants can also add beauty to a water feature. The depth of water is important with shallow water for water plants and deeper water, at least three meters, if stockling trout. The water plants, especially phragmites can help a great deal in the balance of a pond by restricting the blanket...
weed caused by high nitrates in the water, and helping to give clear, blue water.

A reed bed of phragmites, with the water seeping through the roots is a very effective way of purifying water. A large village in the west country are using this method to effectively purify human effluent.

If the golf course is experiencing problems with polluted water a version of the reed bed can be used to clean the water which could also be an attractive environmental habitat and may even attract reed warblers. Water has many other attractions, i.e. swimming Lake swimming on a hot summer day with a good expanse of water with no chlorination can be lovely. A jetty with ladder makes a good platform to dive from and climb out.

As consultants, it is interesting to see how the uses of water features can be combined giving, winter storage, irrigation, hazards for golf, environmentally enhancing for the wildlife and also to provide a beautiful view from the clubhouse and other sections of the course.

How to advise on how water features can help an existing golf course is a challenge especially when costs are important. When asked to advise we study the ordnance survey map of the area and the geological map showing the subsoils and the latest satellite photograph. These are combined with local knowledge and, most importantly, the requirements of the golf course personnel and greenkeeper, who will be aware of the drainage and irrigation needs is helpful.

Our main criteria is to use the existing features as far as possible, which is cost effective and helps the water feature to blend well into the surroundings and look as if it had been there forever!

Jackson House is Managing Director of House Brothers Limited www.lakesandgolfcourses.com 01935 433358

As we approach the late spring and early summer months, consideration should be given to the effects of sunshine on the skin of people who spend an appreciable period of their working time outdoors during the day, or during leisure time spent outside e.g. gardening, playing or watching sports, holidays etc. As well as tanning the skin, ultra violet radiation in sunshine can also cause skin cancer which is one of the most common cancers in the UK. In recent years UK summers have been getting warmer with greater amounts of sunshine giving a corresponding higher risk from the disease. Diagnosis of the disease is rising each year. However, up to 80% of cases could be avoided with some simple precautions. The highest risk is when skin is exposed to direct sunlight but damage can occur even when it is overcast.

On average, people who work outdoors receive three to four times more UV exposure each year than people who work indoors. This cumulative exposure puts outdoor workers at greater risk of non-melanoma skin cancers, which are the most common forms of skin cancer in the UK. People who get sunburnt e.g. at work, while on holiday, gardening etc., also increase their risk of malignant melanoma, the most dangerous form of skin cancer. Those most at risk of skin cancer are people with fair skin, lots of freckles or moles or a family history of the disease.

Employers and other persons exposed to the sun should, whenever possible:

- Avoid unnecessary sun exposure at times between 11am - 3pm – this is the time of day when UV radiation is at its peak in the UK.
- Plan outdoor tasks so that they can be done earlier in the morning or later in the afternoon, reserving indoor or sheltered jobs for peak UV radiation times in the middle of the day.
- Limit each employee’s midday UV exposure where possible by rotating tasks with other staff.
- Provide shade for workers to use, especially during breaks. If this is not feasible, encourage workers to find shade where it is safe do so.
- Provide hats or appropriate headgear for workers to wear. Hats should ideally shade the face, neck, ears and head.
- If hardhats are worn, consider providing extension flaps to protect the neck.
- Provide upf 50+ sunscreen.
- On practical, SPF 15+ sunscreen should be available for outdoor workers to use.
- Keep it in easily accessible places, such as tea rooms, toilets or site offices.
- Ensure you give guidance that for maximum benefit, sunscreen needs to be applied generously before being exposed to the sun and reapplied often.
- Keep their workers informed.
- Include sun protection advice in any routine health & safety training.
- Encourage workers to check their skin regularly for unusual spots or moles that change size, shape or colour.
weeds caused by high nitrates in the water, and helping to give clear, blue water.

A eel bed of pyragnaes, with the water seeping through the roots is a very effective way of purifying water. A large village in the west country are using this method to effectively purify human effluent.

If the golf course is experiencing problems with polluted water a version of the red bed can be used to clean the water which could also be an attractive environmental habitat and may even attract reed-warblers. Water has many other attractions, i.e. swimming Lake swimming on a hot summer day with a good expanse of water with no chlorination can be lovely. A jetty with ladder makes a good platform to dive from and climb out.

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- Provide shade for workers to use, especially during breaks. If this is not feasible, encourage workers to find shade where it is safe to do so.
- Encourage people to cover up.
- Provide hats or appropriate headgear for workers to wear. Hats should ideally shade the face, neck, ears and head.
- If hardhats are worn, consider providing extension flaps to protect the neck.
- If your organisation has a uniform, this could include a hat, as well as shirt and long trousers.
- Consider providing/using sunscreen.
- If practical, SPF 15+ sunscreen should be available for outdoor workers to use.
- Keep it in easily accessible places, such as tearooms, toilets or site offices.
- Ensure you give guidance that for maximum benefit, sunscreen needs to be applied generously before being exposed to the sun and reapplied often.
- Keep their workers informed.
- Include sun protection advice in any routine health & safety training.
- Encourage workers to check their skin regularly for unusual spots or moles that change size, shape or colour and to consult their GP promptly if they find anything that gives them concern. – Early detection saves lives!
New Holland serving the Groundcare industry

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SuperSteer™ prevents the front tyres damaging fine turf whilst maintaining maximum traction.

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SCOTLAND

GTC
BIGGA is actively involved in raising the standard of Greenkeeper Training. The Association is a member of the Greenkeepers’ Training Committee and strives to enhance the level of education through various means, including Section, Regional and National workshops, seminars and conferences.

The range and quality of training now available throughout the UK means that there is a training course for every greenkeeper. This should improve the quality of greenkeeping and help to produce better quality golf courses to the benefit of all within the industry.

Golf Course Managers should ensure that their staff are trained to the highest standards. This begins 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 all clubs should invest in the education of their staff.

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

ELMWOOD COLLEGE
Contact: Sam Larkins
Tel: 01354 55342 Fax: 01354 550888
Email: s.larkins@elmwood.ac.uk
Web: www.elmwood.ac.uk

Information: Information: Full Time National Certificate Greenkeeping Block
Robots, Soil & Irrigation, Maintenance & Turf Production, 1200 hours. Level I & II.

LANGSIDE COLLEGE
Contact: William O’Neill
Tel: 0141 272 3823
Email: women@langside.ac.uk

Information: SVQ, SSA, STG Training and Level 3 Apprenticeships. Course information available from our website.

LANGSIDE COLLEGE
Rutherglen Campus, Rutherglen, Glasgow, G73 3PF
Contact: William O’Neill
Tel: 0141 272 3823
Email: women@langside.ac.uk

Information: SVQ, SSA, HNC, HND. Full Time and part-time courses in Greenkeeping, Groundsmen, Golf Course Management, Horticulture, Land and Environment and Applied Geography. Short courses for land-based industries including Pesticides.

GOSTA TRAINING LTD
50 India Street, Glasgow, G4 2AB
Contact: Chris Booth
Tel: 0141 556 3999 Fax: 0141 556 1999
Email: info@gostatraining.co.uk


SOUTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL
GREENKEEPING COURSE
Contact: Gordon McGinn
Tel: 01292 570861 Fax: 01292 571750
Email: gordon.mcginn@south-ayrshire.gov.uk

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Email: education@bigga.co.uk
Website: www.bigga.org.uk

ELMWOOD COLLEGE
Colt Park, KY15 4HH
Contact: Sam Larkins
Tel: 01334 656642  Fax: 01334 658688
Email: slar@elmwood.ac.uk
Web: www.elmwood.ac.uk

LANGSIDE COLLEGE
Rutherglen Campus, Rutherglen, Glasgow, G73 3PR
Contact: William O’Neill
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GOSTA TRAINING LTD
50 Bikes Street, Glasgow, G40 2AB
Contact: Chris Bennett
Tel: 0141 356 3999 Fax: 0141 558 8991
Email: info@gostatraining.co.uk
Information: SVQ IL, II and IV also Modern Apprenticeship in Sportscarf including other options and GTC training Manual. Attendance Day releases from November - March. Distance Learning also available. Short courses with certification include Pesticides, Chainaw, First Aid, Risk Assessment, Abrasive Wheels, Full Range of Machinery Courses, Manual Handling and Fire Extinguisher training, Consultancy service for health and safety policy development, Site Risk Assess, Machinery Permit to Use system, COSHH and Noise Assessment.

SOUTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL
GREENKEEPING COURSE
Chief Executive’s Department, Training & Development Centre, 15 Links Road, South Ayrshire
Contact: Gordon McGinn
Tel: 01292 675851 Fax: 01292 671170
Email: gordon.mcginn@south-ayrshire.gov.uk

GREENKEEPER TRAINING
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

**BRIDGWATER COLLEGE CANTONNING CENTRE FOR LAND-BASED STUDIES**
Cantonning, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA2 5LS
Contact: Course Enquiries
Tel: 01398 441234 Fax: 01398 446369
Email: enquiries@bridgwater.ac.uk
Website: www.bridgwater.ac.uk

**GTC**
Location: Cantonning
Part-time programmes include NQO Level 2 and 3 Awards in Horticulture.

**HADLOW COLLEGE**
Tonbridge, Kent, TN11 0AL
Contact: Sally Hutton
Tel: 0333 0514444 / 01732 851084
Email: enquiries@hadlow.ac.uk
Website: www.hadlow.ac.uk

- **NVQs**, Apprenticeships and Work Based Learning courses available in Amenity Horticulture (Sports Turf, Arable Horticulture, Dairy and Beef, Aquaculture and Woodland Management. We also offer a range of short courses for example, Health and Safety, COSHH, Chainsaw use, Welding and Practical Assessments. Add full and part-time courses at different levels in Horticulture and a variety of other land-based subjects are available.

**MERRIST WOOD CAMPUS OF GUdiford COLLEGE**
Windsor, Guildford, Surrey GU7 3NR
Contact: Jodie Durrant
Tel: 01483 894316 Fax: 01483 894301
Email: jodie.durrant@merkwood.ac.uk Website: www.merkwood.ac.uk

- Educational Part-time courses NQO Level 2 Sporting day release and workplace visit/assessments. Level 2 First Diploma college day release for those without workplace access. Level 3 NQO 3 Sport on site, Level 3 National Award college day release for those without workplace access. NVQ Sports Turf classroom and Management college day release over 2 years. NQO day release 1 day per year plus a 6-month Skills for the NGI graduates part time over 2 years. A range of NVQ Sports Turf Science brochure to validated site courses: short courses including EBS Integrated Certificate Course. Through the year please contact us for up-to-date lists, qualifications and advice. Open evenings are held regularly in the Campus.

**PLUMPTON COLLEGE**
Hailsham Road, Hailsham, East Sussex BN24 6JG
Contact: David Birchmore
Tel: 01273 890644 Fax: 01273 890091
Email: enquiries@plumpton.ac.uk Website: www.plumpton.ac.uk

- Foundation Degree in Horticulture (Sportsturf specialisms), National Certificate in Amenity Horticulture, National Award (Garden Design), First Diploma in Horticulture, Part-time courses: NQO Level 1, NQO Level 2 in Landscaping and Sports turf, NVQ Level 3 Landscaping and Sports turf, NQO Level 4, Also available are NRS Certificate and RHS Registered: EIGS National Technical and Intermediate National Diplomas. Short courses are also available for FEPA spraying and chainsaw. Bespoke courses tuned to centre. Centre of Excellence for Horticultural Technologies (CEHT).
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MERRIST WOOD CAMPUS OF GUILDFORD COLLEGE

Winchfield, Godalming, Surrey GU7 3PF

Contact: Course Enquiries

Tel: 01483 899436
Fax: 01483 899801
Email: merrist@guildfordcollege.ac.uk
Website: www.merrist.co.uk


PLUMPTON COLLEGE

Hodding Road, Plumpoton, Leaves, East Sussex BN9 4AG

Contact: David Balchin

Tel: 01273 899074
Fax: 01273 899071
Email: enquiries@plumpton.ac.uk
Website: www.plumpton.ac.uk


REASEHEATH COLLEGE

Middlewich, Cheshire CW9 6UN

Contact: Graham Phillips or Clive Spicer

Tel: 01270 563236
Fax: 01270 624665
Email: enquiries@reaseheath.ac.uk
Website: www.reaseheath.ac.uk


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Middlewich, Cheshire CW9 6UN

Contact: Graham Phillips or Clive Spicer

Tel: 01270 563236
Fax: 01270 624665
Email: enquiries@reaseheath.ac.uk
Website: www.reaseheath.ac.uk


WARRICKSHIRE COLLEGE

Wombourne Moor Centre, Wombourne, Wolverhampton, WV5 0BQ

Contact: Andrew Turnbull

Tel: 01922 331233
Fax: 01922 338100
Email: attendb@warcoll.ac.uk

Information: Greenkeeping Courses: Foundation Degree Sports Turf Management (2 years full-time, 1 year part-time), NVQ Level 2 & 3 in Sports Turf Science, Apprenticeship, NFCC, ILM in Sports Turf Science.

WORCESTERSHIRE COLLEGE

Northwood College, Northwood Road, Malvern, Worcestershire, WR14 3QP

Contact: The Registrar

Tel: 01684 893368
Fax: 01684 893372
Email: registrar@wc.cfly.org.uk
Website: www.worcestershirecollege.ac.uk

**BIGGA MEMBERSHIP**

**STUDENT BENEFITS**

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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.

**SUBSCRIPTION TO GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL**
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 greemkeeping jobs on the BIGGA website for apprentice and assistant greenkeepers.

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*ABOVE: Greenkeeper International magazine
LEFT: The BIGGA website*
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You will find greenkeeping jobs on the BIGGA website for apprentice and assistant greenkeepers.

ABOVE: Greenkeeper International magazine
LEFT: The BIGGA website
Cast your mind back to the Queen’s Silver Jubilee in 1977. If it were possible to go back and look at how a golf course was managed back then, what would be the key changes?

For those who have been responsible for maintaining golf courses over the past 30 years or more, the expansion of year round play has to be one of the most noticeable developments. The luxury of a closed season has long gone, with year round pressure to keep the course in tip top condition arguably being the biggest challenge in the past 30 years.

That this demand has coincided with rapid equipment development is either a happy coincidence or a key reason why demands have been able to rise; it depends upon individual viewpoints. Certainly Norman Fenwick, Course Manager at the Ipswich Golf Club suggests modern aeration equipment is among the mechanical developments that have helped to keep courses in play throughout the winter.

“Modern aeration equipment can be tailored to suit the season and weather enabling you to make it do what is required”, he says. “We used to have just the choice of a slitter, chisel or solid tine aerators, these only really working effectively when the conditions were right for them. Now we have a range of needle through to hollow core tines that we can employ to do a specific job. The operation speed and variety of aeration equipment now available is a great help to us”.

By the 1980s, Ransomes was producing its own greens mowers, the pictured Motor 180 and Tournament Triplex 171 being early examples. By 1984, the Triplex Mark II had a choice of brush or cutter attachments, quality of cut taking a useful step forwards.

The Ransomes/Hahn Tournament Triplex was produced in the US, Ransomes importing it as a response to the Toro Greensmaster III. This first came to the UK in 1970 and was imported by Flymo International. In the USA, Jacobsen was the first to develop a ride-on greens mower in 1968. Powered by a 12hp petrol engine, the Ransomes-Hahn offered a 1.70m cut and could be supplied with verticutting, spiking and utility mowing reels. The first machine was sold in 1972, with 300 units having been sold by summer 1974.