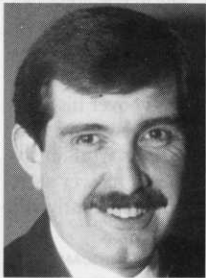


Reduced registration fees makes top award more accessible

Be a Master of your profession



BIGGA Education Officer David Golding: 'I urge all members to apply for an MGC registration form'

None can deny that the recent happy occasion – the presentation by BIGGA President, Viscount Whitelaw, of Britain's first ever Master Greenkeeper Certificate to Laurence Pithie – which took place at the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition in January – represented a new era in the recognition of greenkeeping as a vitally important profession, together with the continuing need to have clearly definable professional qualifications.

Ever mindful of this need, the Association has announced a major change for those members contemplating registration for the Master Greenkeeper Certificate. **The initial cost of registering for MGC, which was £60, is reduced to just £10.**

BIGGA Education Officer, David Golding, has broken the MGC specification down into plain language, enabling members to clearly understand how the scheme operates and the 'scoring' which takes place.

"There has been a great deal of interest in the scheme by both members and employers, but many are unsure of the mechanics of the scheme," said David.

Details are as follows:

STAGE ONE

The 'goal' is 200 credits, with members gaining credits toward this goal by both experience in the workplace and educational exposure .

Experience: By definition, this is calculated by multiplying the number of years a member has been employed in greenkeeping by four, for example:

- Apprentice greenkeeper, Slyceham Golf Club 1970 -1973
- Assistant greenkeeper, Divot Valley Golf Club 1973 -1980
- Deputy head greenkeeper, Hackinatit Golf Club 1980 -1987
- Head greenkeeper, Shankem-on-the-Tee Golf Club 1987 - 1991

Thus our fictitious example gives a total of 21 years x 4 = a total of 84 credits.

Education: Credits are awarded for the completion of any of the following:

- Sports Turf Research Institute one week course...8 credits
- BIGGA Management courses (each of one week).8 credits
- Supervisory Course (Elmwood College) one week course8 credits
- City & Guilds
 - City & Guilds Phase I – one year course.....15 credits
 - City & Guilds Phase II – two year course54 credits
 - City & Guilds Phase III – one year course24 credits
 - City & Guilds Phase IV – one year course24 credits

Note: If any of the Phases I-IV are taken at an 'Approved College' of the Greenkeepers Training Committee, add three extra credits per phase (maximum 9).

- Scotec/Scotvec
 - Modules – 40 hours-6 credits
 - Half module – 20 hours3 credits

Note: The maximum credits attainable for greenkeeping craft level modules is 102, with 15 credits for supervisory modules. Three extra credits will be awarded for each set of

five modules, obtained at an 'Approved College' (maximum 9 credits).

- Attendance at BIGGA National Conference
 - From 1988 onwards: per conference.....5 credits
- Attendance at BTME Seminar Programme
 - From 1990 onwards: per session.....1 credit
- Attendance at BTME Workshops
 - From 1991 onwards: per workshop.....4 credits
- Attendance at Regional/Section Seminars
 - From 1990 onwards: per seminar.....3 credits
- Pesticides Certification
 - PA 1 – pass.....5 credits
 - PA2A or 6 Hand held or tractor mounted.....5 credits

Note: The maximum credits attainable under Pesticide Certification is ten.

The Association also exercises overall discretion to award additional credits for other approved qualifications not detailed above; and will be pleased to give any certificates held by a candidate due consideration. Copies of such certificates should be forwarded to HQ when registering. Upon registration, a detailed credits report is prepared for each candidate and forwarded to him/her. As further credits are gained, each candidates report is updated at BIGGA HQ.

When the magic '200' mark is reached, a further fee is required from candidates. The cost of this has been increased from £100 to £150, and upon payment the candidate moves to stages 2 and 3 of the MGC.

STAGE TWO

(For course managers and head greenkeepers only)

During the season of growth the candidates golf course will be visited by two assessors, this to ensure that correct management and maintenance practices are being implemented. The date of such visit will be confirmed following agreement between the candidate and David Golding. Assessment guide-lines are sent to each candidate to guide them in preparation for their course visit.

STAGE THREE

Upon receipt of the £150 fee for stages 2 and 3, candidates will be provided with a syllabus to work on prior to an examination, which is held annually in May. The examination consists of two three-hour papers: 1) A case study. 2) Five questions, one from each individual section of the provided syllabus.

Summarising, David Golding said: "The MGC is clearly seen as the 'Way Forward' for BIGGA members and I firmly believe that in the future many potential employers will increasingly refer to the MGC as the standard of excellence within our industry.

"Members should ensure they are not left behind by registering now. I urge them all to apply for an MGC registration form (obtainable from HQ), complete it, and send copies of certificates held and a cheque for £10 to BIGGA HQ.

"I hope this clarification of the scheme will inspire many more greenkeepers to join and I will be happy to discuss any points – including any credits already earned – with them. I expect my telephone line to run 'hot' in the weeks ahead!"