

Pesticides course an 'overwhelming success' – and some places still available for next one

by DAVID GOLDING, Education Officer

The pilot Pesticides Course held at BIGGA headquarters was an overwhelming success with all five members passing both FEPA PA1 and 2A examinations.

Members travelled to headquarters on Monday, 16 March for two days' intensive training with the Association's Health and Safety consultant, Jon Allbutt. On the Wednesday morning all delegates completed the Foundation Module (PA1) and during Thursday and Friday morning the application tests (PA 2A) were negotiated.

It is essential that all course managers/head greenkeepers become certificated for the application of chemicals and BIGGA headquarters is only one option for students to consider for certification. Many colleges have run very successful training courses but testing has at times been a problem. However, this is a cheaper option rather than our in-house course. The benefits of our course is that we train and test within five days at the Manor and the camaraderie which is apparent amongst the mature greenkeepers is a vital ingredient in the preparation for the tests (see letters page).

In programming and projecting our own course it was thought that whilst younger greenkeepers will choose the college route, the more mature greenkeeper would prefer the informal surroundings of BIGGA headquarters.

In conclusion, I would like to thank tutor, Jon



All aboard for success at the Pesticides Course at Aldwark Manor

Allbutt, Colin Gregory, managing director of Hardy Sprayers and Richard Bishop, sales director of Ransomes, for the loan of equipment used on the course. This is much appreciated as it is well documented that many greenkeepers when facing their FEPA tests have been asked to use equipment, chemical labels etc. which have no resemblance to golf course maintenance. This is an issue which we are confronting with the examination body and it could be that shortly we will be requiring certificated greenkeepers to

become examiners! Watch this space.

For those members still not certified, please contact your college for details of the PA1-2A courses or for members who would prefer the BIGGA route, the next week for training and testing is Monday, 5 October-Friday, 9 October inclusive. Cost is £421.27 +VAT = £495.00 including accommodation, meals, training, examination and certification fees. There are only six places available, so ring headquarters now to book your place.

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