

Education update

BY KEN RICHARDSON



Range of courses continues to grow

My own education is continuing with visits to Myerscough and Reaseheath colleges which not only provided me with two colleges' views on greenkeeper training but also improved my knowledge of grass identification and grass diseases. The range of courses on offer at colleges continues to grow, ranging from N/SVQ through Ordinary National and Higher National Diplomas to degree level courses. Short courses are also available covering a range of skills including Health and Safety, Pesticide Application, First Aid and Safe Lifting and Handling of Heavy Loads.

■ The GTC Training Manual, available from the GTC, Aldwark Manor, Alne, York, YO6 2NF, has been developed as the means to monitor and record the training of greenkeepers, from raw recruit to course manager. The Manual not only meets the needs of industry but also satisfies the criteria laid down by N/SVQ to lead to the award of a nationally recognised qualification at levels 2, 3 and 4. Candidates successfully completing the sections of the Manual will also be entered on the GTC register and will be awarded the appropriate industry certificate ie. the Certificate in Golf Greenkeeping (Craft Section), the Certificate in Golf Course Supervision (Supervisory Section) and the Certificate in Golf Course Management (Management Section). Mandatory conservation units must be completed before the Certificate in Golf Course Management will be issued. Greenkeepers who completed the 'Pink' log-book are still eligible to be entered into the GTC register. Greenkeepers can check with the GTC on 0347 838640 to see if they are registered.

■ N/SVQ assessment centres are being selected from a list of colleges and golf courses and the initial batch of seven greenkeeper assessors has completed its initial training here at Aldwark.

■ Several education and training projects were discussed and

endorsed at the recent BIGGA board meeting. These included:

Training videos

The next BIGGA sponsored training video 'Course Preparation' is due to enter production shortly. This video will cover six units of the GTC Training Manual and has been designed to be used by course managers, golf club management and colleges. The video will be produced in modular format so that the trainer can select the part or parts of the video that meet the training need.

Field guides

The next BIGGA field guide will cover 'Grass Identification'. Initial planning has taken place and production of the guide is expected in the autumn.

BIGGA reference library

Although several management and personal development books have been identified for the BIGGA reference library and the R&A are providing us with a bibliography of some of their titles, we are still looking for suggestions, from members, of suitable books. Details have yet to be finalised but we hope to provide a library which will enable members to gain access to a wide range of greenkeeping, turf management, personnel management and general management sources of information.

■ Two major BIGGA events are nearing their final stages. These are:

TORO/LELY/PGA Student of the Year

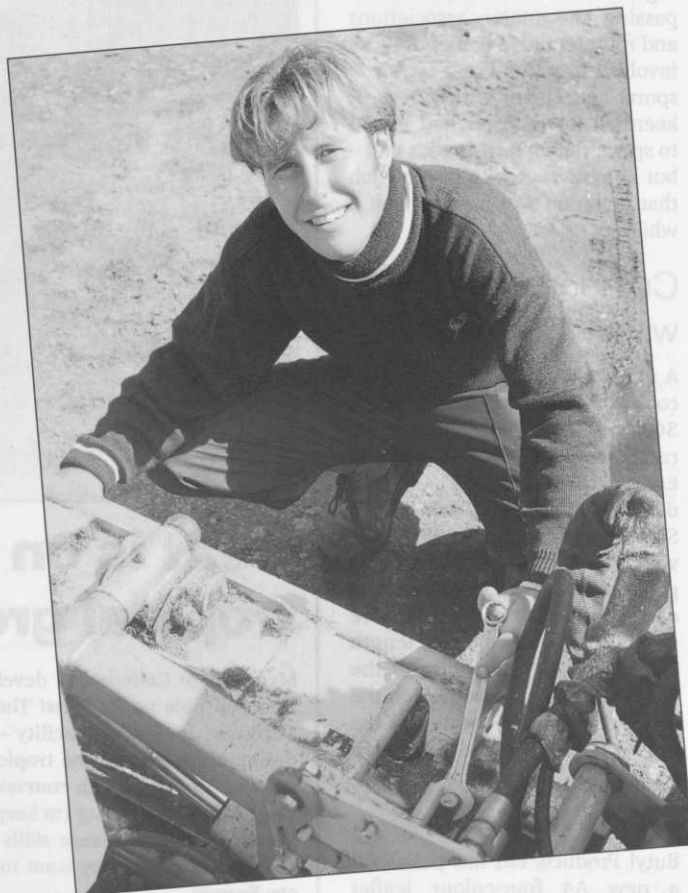
We have received 33 entries from 19 colleges for this year's Student of the Year competition. The regional finals will take place in early September and the final at Aldwark on October 2/3.

ICI Premier Greenkeeper of the Year

The regional courses inspections have already commenced and the finalists should be known soon. The final takes place at Aldwark Manor on December 4/5.

A day in the life

The last time we did this it was snowing in some areas, so we asked five greenkeepers what they were doing on a nice hot summer's day – June 14.



STEVEN MACDONALD, 22
First assistant at Vereniging Golf Club Almeerderhout, The Netherlands, a 27-hole parkland course with a nine-hole par 3 course and driving range. Set in 297 acres, it has 1400 members. Steven has been there two years.

7am – Preparing and checking relevant machinery for all greenkeeping staff to be used today.

7.30am – Delegation of morning jobs with head greenkeeper and discuss briefly the rest of the day's work planner.

7.45am – Begin to fertilise the nine holes on our blue course with Fison's Zero Phosphate 14.0.7 (NPK), 2% iron, 2%mg, with head greenkeeper following

behind watering the greens manually with the Toro irrigation system. Application rate: 1oz per sq yd.

10am – Break.

10.20am – Resetting, tightening and checking fairway Beaver units (two) and Toro 450D fairway mower. After completing this I moved onto the Toro 1000s (four) where I reset height to 5.5mm on all machines and tightened units ready for tomorrow morning.

12.30pm – Lunch.

1.30pm – Delegation of afternoon tasks with head greenkeeper.

1.45pm – Working with Toro 325D set at rough height around greens with assistant greenkeeper on the yellow course in preparation for the club championship at

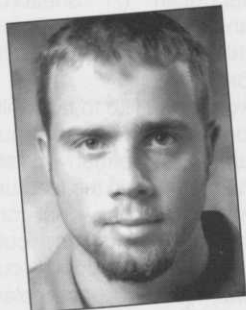
the weekend.

4.15pm – Refuel machine, fill in time sheet, lock up and set alarm.

Finishing time: 4.30pm

Typical day? Very typical with an organised daily work programme having been prepared by our course manager, which means everybody is always kept very busy. Slavernig! (*Dutch*)

Other comments: There is overtime during the week (Thursday and Friday) to have the course in optimal condition for the Club Championship at the weekend.



JAMES ANDREWS, 19
Apprentice greenkeeper at Hankley Common Golf Club, near Fareham, Surrey. The 18-hole heathland course is set in 90 acres and has 600 members. James started there in August '93.

6am – Hand watering greens. Due to the past few days of hot weather, dry spot has occurred on a majority of the greens. Therefore, to stay on top of this, hand watering was necessary. A wetting agent was used.

10.30am – Break for lunch.

11am – Repair burst pipe at the 13th tee.

12.30pm – Clean bottom of water tank – shoes and socks off! Water was drained from the tank and debris collected at the bottom of the tank was disposed of.

1.30-1.34pm – Water fight – course manager soaks me and helper with hose. We come off worse.

Finishing time: 2.15pm

Typical day? Not really as a large company was occupying the course. We had to be off the course by 10.30am (except to repair the burst pipe).

CLIVE RICHARDS, 33
Head greenkeeper at Chipping Sodbury GC, a 27-hole parkland complex set in 120 acres with 750 members. Clive joined in April '91 as deputy and was promoted to head greenkeeper in October '92. Normal hours are 6am-2pm.



GEORGE BROOKE-POWELL, 21
Assistant greenkeeper at Hanbury Manor, an 18-hole Jack Nicklaus Jr designed course set in 200 parkland acres with 550 members. George has been there four years.

6.15am – Fill the mini digger with diesel and grease the entire machine.

6.30am – Continue with mini digger to complete trench work for the installation of a new irrigation main.

10am – Visit my local GP for some allergy relief.

11am – Repair a broken down golf buggy.

11.30am – Lunch.

12.15pm – Finish irrigation main trench work.

5pm – Excavate the irrigation main from the pump station for the connection of the new main.

6.45pm – Lock up.

Finishing time: 7pm

Typical day? Not at all due to the irrigation work being carried out. Normally my tasks would be split between mowing duties and machinery maintenance.

5.45am – Turn irrigation pumps on. (At the moment we have a problem with the wiring system on our irrigation system, so I can only water on manual. The irrigation engineer is due today.)

6am – Delegate jobs to greenstaff. (We have six full-time greenkeepers including myself and a part-time gardener.)

6.15-10am – Change holes, watering the greens at each hydrant as I go round the course. (We are in a long dry spell.)

10-10.45am – Break time.

10.45am – Ring TH Whites to see if they have a Cushman front tyre in stock. They have. Took front wheel off and asked deputy to pick up new one. Ring Roffey Bros and order 25 tonne 70/30 and seaweed.

11.15am – Reset height of cut on Toro 223-D fairway machine from 1/2 to 3/4in to protect the fairways during dry spell. Greased machine all over.

12.15pm – Tried phoning for a JCB to move a large mound of soil. Failed. Will try again tomorrow. Phoned the office in the clubhouse.

12.25pm – Staff return from doing odd jobs. (New tee blocks went on the nine holes on common land, deputy came back from TH Whites, Greens King units taken off for a regrind. Various other odd jobs to finish the day.)

2pm – Staff go home. I go to office in clubhouse and book in delivery notes in the budget book. I also sign invoices and check

their numbers in my book.

Finishing time: 2.50pm

Typical day? Today there was a seniors open championship so we kept out of everyone's way after setting the course up, ie nothing was done out on the course after 10am, so it was not a typical day.

Other comments: The irrigation engineer did not turn up. When I rang to find out the reason for the delay he said he should be here tomorrow. We are one man short this week as one of my staff is at Cannington College finishing his NVQ year 2 course.

ROBIN EVANS, 27
Assistant greenkeeper at Whitby Golf Club, an 18-hole course situated on the cliff between Whitby and Sandsend. Robin has been there 11 years.

3.45am – Start work early because there's a ladies open competition. Check tractor (John Deere) ready for the day's work, ie water, diesel, oil. Put low trailer on and load up with gear ready for going around the course at 6am when the rest of the team comes in. This gear includes rakes, new flags, litter bags for emptying the bins, hole changing equipment and the strimmer.

4.15am – Strim the drive entrance and around the clubhouse area, then edge and strim the steps on the ladies' 12th tee and give them a fresh coat of paint. Make modification to the fence on the 9th tee to stop the turf wearing at the front of the tee. Then back to the sheds to join the rest of the team in the course preparation.

6am – Set to work on the course, ie raking bunkers, changing holes, picking litter off the course, emptying bins, moving markers etc.

10am – Break.

10.30am – Machinery maintenance and tidying shed out.

Finishing time: 1pm

Typical day? Not really, due to the ladies competition.

