



Turf-Care Supplies:

Fertilisers
Soil Conditioners
Wetting Agents
Pesticides
Grass Seeds
Turf
Line Marking Materials
Sports Equipment
Top Dressings
Soils & Sands
Composts
Bark
Tools

Engineering Services:

New Machinery
Reconditioned Machinery
Service
Repairs
Overhauls
Spare Parts
On Site Servicing and Repairs

Hire and Contract Services:

Specialist plant hire
Verti-draining
Aerating
Top Dressing
Over-Seeding
Hydro-Seeding
Grass Cutting
Spraying

For all your Turf-Care needs

PARKER HART

T. Parker & Sons (Turf Management) Limited,
Malden Green Farm, Worcester Park, Surrey KT4 7NF
Tel: 0181-337 7791 Fax: 0181-330 7392

Club would like to thank his Captain, Len Snow and his Committee for their ongoing support which will continue through his period as Section Secretary and Regional Board member.

RICHARD PAGE

SHEFFIELD

On 6 April we held our final winter lecture, given by Mr Will Adamson of ADAS, who works on construction of golf courses. He gave a very interesting talk on the elements of a good course, the condition and presentation, the beauty and attractiveness and the qualities of the course. In particular, it was interesting to learn the construction of golf greens.

On 12 April, we held our first golf tournament at Phoenix Golf Club, which was in excellent condition. Thanks to Keith and his staff. The winner of the President's prize was Paul Unwin, of Hallamshire Golf Club. The following qualified for the Regional Final of the Hayter Tournament, to be played at Middlesbrough Golf Club on 4 July: Division 1, 0-9: Derek McJannet (Sherwood Forest), 72-0-72; Stephen Currie (Hicklehen), 82-9-73; David Chapple (Thrybergh), 82-9-73. Division 2, 10-18: Colin Hopper (Town Moor), 86-13-73; Neil Maltby (Wheatley), 88-15-73; Antony Whittington (Workshop), 92-18-74. Division 3, 19-23: Paul Unwin (Hallamshire), 81-27-71; Barry Lax (Workshop), 98-23-75; James Hall (Bondhay), 98-22-76.

Many thanks to our trade members who donated prizes – President, K Arnold, Les Purdy, Rhône-Poulenc, P Fell – Aitkens, Steve Burroughs – Amenity Turf Supplies, A Dyson – Gem, M Brears – Trident.

Our next golf tournament will be held at Cavendish Golf Club on 3 July at 10.30am.
RON ULLATHORNE

What



The number and range of greenkeeper training courses continue to expand as the demand for high quality training increases. This variety of provision can lead to confusion as to who

does what, where and how.

BIGGA education officer Ken Richardson, pictured, lists training providers and outlines the courses and schemes available for greenkeeper training.

TRAINING POLICY

Training policy for all greenkeepers is set by the Greenkeepers Training Committee (GTC). The Committee comprises representatives from the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association (BIGGA), the English Golf Union (EGU), the Golfing Union of Ireland (GUI), the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews (R&A), the Scottish Golf Union (SGU) and the Welsh Golfing Union (WGU) and thus has connections with all aspects of golf in the United Kingdom and Ireland.

The GTC headquarters at Aldwark Manor is staffed by two officers – David Golding, the Education Director and Sue Gudgeon, the Administrative Officer. The GTC is, currently, mainly involved in the introduction of National/Scottish Vocational Qualifications. This work includes membership of the Industry Lead Body for Amenity Horticulture, liaison with the National Council for Vocational Qualifications and the Scottish Council for Vocational Qualifications, identifying and training of Industry competent assessors (D32) and advisers (D36), monitoring the review of N/SVQ in Amenity Horticulture (Greenkeeping), production, sale and updating of the GTC Training Manual and translation of the Training Manual into French, German and Spanish, monitoring standards of greenkeeper training by colleges and other training providers and ensuring that all greenkeepers have access to good quality education and training as part of their terms and conditions of service.

TRAINING PROVIDERS

Many organisations have an influence on training policy as members of the GTC and some, for example BIGGA, have a major impact on greenkeeper training by acting as training providers. The following list is not exhaustive but does, hopefully, cover the main contributors to the provision of greenkeeper training and education.

you need to know about TRAINING

BRITISH AND INTERNATIONAL GOLF GREENKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

BIGGA has some 7,000 members in 31 different countries. It has strong links with the Golf Course Superintendents' Association of America, European and worldwide greenkeepers' associations. BIGGA is a major provider of greenkeeper education, attempting to identify areas of training not provided for elsewhere, providing easy access to training and encouraging greenkeepers to enter, participate and continue with their education and training at all stages of their career. The range, variety and location of BIGGA training courses continues to expand and current training and education schemes are outlined below.

SUPERVISORY AND MANAGEMENT TRAINING

The autumn 1994 series of Supervisory and Management courses were designed, for the first time, to meet the underpinning knowledge requirements of the N/SVQ level 3 supervisory units. The course was split into four modules which covered Managing People, Managing Operations and Resources and Managing Information. From the feedback received from delegates, the courses were a great success and autumn 1995 will see similar courses being presented at Aldwark Manor with the addition of a fifth module which will meet the requirements of selected level 4 Management units. During the autumn and winter of 1995/1996, BIGGA also will be offering Supervisory and Management training in the regions. These two day, residential courses will reinforce and revise management topics covered during Aldwark Manor or other management courses, and provide an extra opportunity for all greenkeepers to acquire important management skills. Full details of these courses will be published in future editions of *Greenkeeper International*.

HEALTH AND SAFETY AT WORK

The requirements of the Health and Safety at Work Act should be of concern to all greenkeepers. Changes to legislation, introduction of new rules and the threat of prosecution, if problems do occur, mean that greenkeepers need to be kept informed. BIGGA is arranging a series of Health and Safety workshops which will take place during autumn/winter

1995/1996. The workshops will be based on golf courses in each region and will enable delegates to conduct written assessments, draw up plans and identify areas of concern. Again, full details of these courses will be published in future editions of *Greenkeeper International*.

PESTICIDE TRAINING

Escalating costs have caused the Aldwark Manor based pesticide training courses to be replaced by regional based non-residential pesticide courses. Each course will last for five days and will include training and examinations for PA1, PA2A and PA6 certificates. Courses will be presented on golf courses. Look out for details as they become known in *Greenkeeper International*.

COMMUNICATION COURSES

Good communication skills, both written and oral, are becoming more important as more greenkeepers are expected to be able to make presentations to committees and groups of golf club members. BIGGA, in cooperation with the GTC, will be offering a series of communication courses, in BIGGA regions, during autumn/winter 1995/1996.

NATIONAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE AND BTME SEMINAR PROGRAMME

Major events in the BIGGA calendar are the National Education Conference and BTME Seminar Programme. Planning is underway for January 1996 and we hope to have even more of an international flavour for next year's conference. Training workshops will also return during BTME week. The National Education Conference and BTME Seminar Programme give greenkeepers and golf course committee members the chance to learn from experts how golf and greenkeeping is changing and allows a free exchange of ideas from delegate to delegate.

REGION AND SECTION CONFERENCES SEMINARS AND MEETINGS

BIGGA is organised on a regional basis. The five regions are Scotland, Northern England, the Midlands, the South East and the South West and South Wales. Each region is subdivided into sections. Conferences, seminars and meetings held in each section and region during the autumn and winter months are designed to add to the training and education

opportunities offered nationally to try and ensure that the maximum number of greenkeepers have access to education and training.

MASTER GREENKEEPER CERTIFICATE

The award of the Master Greenkeeper Certificate indicates that the recipient has reached the highest standards of excellence within the greenkeeping profession. The scheme, which has recently been endorsed by the Greenkeepers Training Committee, is designed to recognise through a combination of experience and training, greenkeeping ability and a formal examination, those who are Masters of greenkeeping. The scheme has been running for seven years and it is indicative of the high standards necessary that only nine greenkeepers have been awarded Master Greenkeeper status. The scheme is currently being revised but no major changes are envisaged. Full details can be obtained from Headquarters.



ZENECA PREMIER GREENKEEPER

The Zeneca Premier Greenkeeper competition aims to find the greenkeeper who gets the best from his course with the facilities that he has available and aims to recognise services to the greenkeeping industry. The first prize winner wins a trip to the GCSAA Exhibition and Conference in the USA and his team will be awarded a prize of £500. Runners-up prizes include a weekend for two in London and a weekend for two at Aldwark Manor. The current titleholder is David Walden, pictured above.

What you need to know about TRAINING



TORO/PGA EUROPEAN TOUR STUDENT OF THE YEAR

The Toro/PGA European Tour award not only offers students the chance to widen their experience, but also offers them the chance to win the Toro scholarship. This includes a six week turf management study course at the University of Massachusetts, visits to Toro factories and a visit to the GCSAA show. The runners-up join the PGA European Tour team during a major tour event and are also invited to attend the PGA European Tour Greenkeeper conference.

TRAINING RESOURCES

BIGGA is a major provider of greenkeeper education aids and resources. These include video films, colour slides, booklets, magazine articles, audio cassettes and textbooks. A library has recently been established and plans are being formulated to allow all BIGGA members to have access. The latest BIGGA video which will cover course preparation as defined in the GTC Training Manual level two units is due to be completed about now and further videos are being considered. A booklet covering the ecological management of golf courses will be completed soon and an on-course grass identification guide is currently being written. Audio cassettes of both the National Education Conference and BTME Seminar Programmes are still available from Headquarters.

CAREERS ADVICE

BIGGA provides greenkeeping careers advice to individuals, careers teachers, careers officers and training and enterprise councils. Copies of the joint BIGGA/GTC career video "Keeper of the Green" are available, on loan, from the GTC.

EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT FUND

The BIGGA Education and Development Fund exists to promote and finance education programmes and training aids. Financial contributions from companies, groups and individuals help to provide funding for BIGGA Education and Training initiatives.

As can be seen from the above, BIGGA not only influences the training policy of greenkeepers but also provides training and education opportunities. Through its membership of the GTC, BIGGA has the opportunity to market its education and

training courses to employers, thus allowing them to invest in their staff, which in turn must produce better golf courses throughout the UK and Ireland.

GREENKEEPER TRAINING COURSES

The GTC grants "approved status" to 24 colleges that offer greenkeeper training courses. Some colleges are approved to offer Craft level courses (N/SVQ level 2), some are approved for training up to Supervisory level (N/SVQ level 3) and others are approved as regional training centres, offering courses up to Management level (N/SVQ level 4). The list of approved colleges appears twice per year in this magazine and copies of the list can be obtained from BIGGA Headquarters or from the GTC at Aldwark Manor. There is a wide range of courses on offer from short courses, lasting one day, or a number of days, to full-time courses lasting up to three and even four years. A list of courses offered, but not necessarily at all colleges, is given below.

PART-TIME COURSES

N/SVQ

- Level II (Craft)
- Day release and Block release
- Level III (Supervisory)
- Level IV (Management)

National Certificate in Greenkeeping and Turf Management

NB: Day release is one day per week throughout the academic year; Block release is a full-time attendance for part of an academic year.

N/SVQs

N/SVQs were introduced following a review of vocational qualifications in Britain, showing that very few workers had any work related qualifications. Therefore, in order to improve the quality of British goods and the professionalism of British workers, the government set up the National Council for Vocational Qualifications (NCVQ). One of the tasks of NCVQ was to set up Industry Lead Bodies (ILB) which, for greenkeeping, is the Amenity Horticulture Industry Lead Body (AHILB). The AHILB also includes groundsmen, landscape, arboriculture and horticulture. The N/SVQs introduced, initially by the AHILB covered general amenity horticulture and were not felt to be suitable for greenkeeper training. Consequently, the GTC formed a panel comprising college lecturers and greenkeepers to assess the vocational training needs of greenkeepers. This review led to the introduction of the GTC Training Manual, which details greenkeeper vocational training requirements at Levels II, III and IV. Most approved colleges teach to the Training Manual standard and successful students gain both N/SVQ and GTC qualifications. A full review of N/SVQs is currently being conducted and it is hoped that

greenkeeping S/NVQs will match the requirements of the GTC Training Manual.

INDUSTRY COMPETENT ASSESSORS

The main change introduced by N/SVQ qualifications was to assess a candidate's ability to "do the job". Therefore, for the qualification to be valid, candidates must be assessed at the workplace, ie on the golf course and that assessment must be carried out by industry competent assessors (greenkeepers). More than 100 greenkeepers are currently being trained to D32 Assessor standard and some are also being trained to be D36 Advisors. The D32 and D36 refer to units of the Training Development Lead Body qualification which recognise competence in the two areas.

FULL-TIME COURSES

Full-time courses, ie. those studied full-time for one, two and three and sometimes four academic years include:

- National Certificate in Greenkeeping and Turf Management
- National Diploma in Turf Science and Sports-ground Management
- Higher National Certificate and Diploma in Golf Course Management

Students are now able to progress to degree level courses.

SHORT COURSES

Short courses offered at colleges include: Health and Safety Legislation, Pesticide Spraying, Chain Saw Courses, First Aid, Off-Road Driving, Safe Lifting, Machinery Maintenance and Repair, Tractor Operations, All Terrain Vehicle Driving.

INDUSTRY LIAISON COMMITTEES

Most colleges or groups of colleges that offer greenkeeping courses have an industry liaison committee. These committees are comprised of greenkeepers and lecturers. The committee's purpose is to ensure that greenkeeper training is meeting the needs of the greenkeeping industry by monitoring standards, considering changes and providing feedback to the colleges on the standard of student output.

OTHER TRAINING PROVIDERS

Many other associations, bodies, institutes, unions and groups provide training for greenkeepers. For example, the Sports Turf Research Institute at Bingley provide courses in greenkeeping and courses for Club Secretaries and Chairmen of Greens Committees. Golf unions conduct regular seminars for their members, which are open to greenkeepers. The Institute of Groundsmanship (IOG) have a programme of seminars and lectures.

The National Turfgrass Council, of which BIGGA is a member, hold seminars and various companies and dealers also offer courses and seminars.

In this article, I have tried to show the wide range of greenkeeper education and training. BIGGA, through its membership of the GTC and the NTC, has a major impact on training policy. Additionally, by providing training courses, training aids and resources and by providing links with other training bodies, BIGGA is a major provider of greenkeeper education and training.

ELMWOOD COLLEGE

Cupar, Fife KY15 4JB

provider of quality education and training

The Home of Greenkeeper Training!

Elmwood is host to the BIGGA contingent that will be looking after the course during the OPEN GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP - 1995 at St. Andrews, The Home of Golf!

A few single bedrooms are still available.

Half Board with transport provided.

Good company assured.

For details contact Miss M. Paisley, Domestic Bursar,
on (01334) 652781, ext. 277.