

# Understanding the role of the training providers

**Ken Richardson, BIGGA's Education Officer and David Golding, Education Director for the GTC, conclude this series of articles with questions and answers about training providers.**

## **1. What do you mean by Training Providers?**

In greenkeeper training, Training Providers are, in simple terms, any person, college or other organisation that provides training for greenkeepers.

## **2. How many colleges are there?**

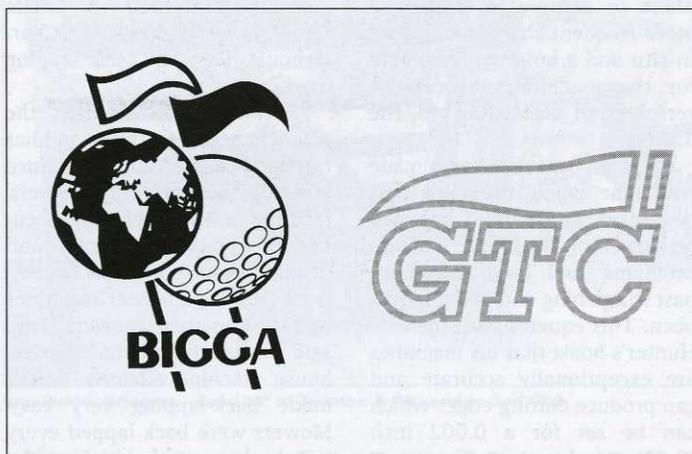
There are 28 colleges approved, by the GTC, to offer greenkeeping courses at craft level with a reduced number approved to offer supervisory and management training

## **3. Where are the colleges?**

There are approved colleges in England, Scotland, Wales and in the North and South of Ireland. Full lists of approved colleges may be obtained from the GTC and BIGGA. Moreover, full college lists are printed in the June and December issues of Greenkeeper International, each year.

## **4. What is meant by approved colleges?**

GTC approved colleges have to meet GTC criteria, including the setting up of an industry liaison committee, a commitment to pro-



vide N/SVQ courses and courses that cover the different sections of the GTC Training Manual. Colleges also offer a range of full time courses such as National Certificate and National Diploma, Higher National Certificate and Higher National Diploma.

## **5. What other organisations offer greenkeeper training?**

BIGGA organises and runs GTC endorsed courses in Supervisory Management, both at its headquarters at Aldwark Manor and out in its regions. These courses include leadership, motivation, organisation, discipline, planning, budgeting and finance, health and safety, first aid, pesticide application, oral and written presentation and employment law. BIGGA also organises a National Education Conference

and Workshop programme, each January, and regional and section conferences and seminars. BIGGA also runs educational seminars during BTME. The Sports Turf Research Institute, based at Bingley in west Yorkshire, offer courses in greenkeeping, both at their headquarters and by Open Learning. These courses are based on the contents of the greenkeeper training manual and can, therefore, lead to the award of a recognised vocational qualification. Managing agents, who work for local TECs and LECs, offer training in some parts of the country. However, check with the GTC, before enrolling with a managing agent. Many manufacturers and suppliers of horticultural machinery and golf course equipment provide training courses

## **6. Does that mean that I can become a trained greenkeeper without going to college?**

It all depends on your starting point. If you do not work or have ever worked on a golf course, then it would be very difficult to acquire the skills needed to be a greenkeeper. If, however, you are already working in greenkeeping and have acquired the practical skills, then it is possible to acquire the theoretical knowledge by distance learning eg correspondence course or from BIGGA conferences and seminars, books, videos and Greenkeeper International.

## **7. Could my Head Greenkeeper become a training provider?**

Yes he/she could. In fact many Head Greenkeeper/Course Managers conduct on-the-job training for all of their staff as part of an overall staff training scheme. Those Head Greenkeeper/Course Managers who hold an assessor qualification can also assess their staff to National Standards and recommend the award of a Nationally recognised qualification.

## **9. How do I find out more information on greenkeeper training?**

Contact the GTC on 01347 838640 or BIGGA on 01347 838581 or contact your nearest approved college.

