

Supervisory courses: Time for a re-think?



Education Update

BY KEN RICHARDSON

The booking deadline for this year's Supervisory Management Courses is long past and, once again, due to the poor response in some Regions, some courses have had to be cancelled. I have been trying to think why these courses are not more popular and I have come up with the following thoughts:

1. Are all greenkeepers fully qualified to do their current and future jobs and therefore not need training?
2. These course at £50 or £75 for members do not represent value for money.
3. The content of courses is not what is required by greenkeepers.
4. Golf clubs cannot afford to give greenkeepers two days away from work.
5. Insufficient advertising.
6. Courses are at the wrong venues.
7. Courses are run at the wrong time of year.
8. General apathy.

Remember, these courses are run for your benefit and, thanks to the support of contributors to the Education and Development Fund, they are offered at minimum cost eg. £75 covers only the cost of the lecturer's fees per course. Accommodation, food and training facilities are provided by BIGGA. I would be interested to hear from members (or non members) with their ideas why these courses are not more successful.

Places are still available at:

Aldwark Manor Hotel – Monday 24 and Tuesday 25 November 1997: **Golf Course Design, Construction and Establishment**

The Dunkenhall Hotel, Accrington, Wednesday 26 and Thursday 27 November 1997: **Recruitment, Selection and Interviewing**

Hollins Hall Hotel, Bradford, Monday 16, and Tuesday 17 February 1998: **Essential Supervisory Management Skills for Greenkeepers**

Rockingham Forest Hotel, Corby, Northampton – Monday 10 and Tuesday 11 November 1997: **Recruitment, Selection and Interviewing**

West Retford Hotel, Retford – Wednesday 26

and Thursday 27 November 1997: **Golf Course Design, Construction and Establishment**

The Chesford Grange Hotel, Kenilworth – Monday 1 and Tuesday 2 December 1997: **Essential Supervisory Management Skills**

The Blue Boar Hotel, Maldon, Essex – Tuesday 14 and Wednesday 15 October 1997: **Essential Supervisory Management Skills**

Old Ship Hotel, Brighton – Thursday 16 and Friday 17 October 1997: **Leadership, Team Briefings Motivation**

The George Hotel, Crawley, Surrey – Tuesday 21 and Wednesday 22 October 1997: **Recruitment, Selection and Interviewing**

The Cheltenham and Gloucester Moat House Hotel – Thursday 23 and Friday 24 October 1997: **Essential Supervisory Management Skills for Greenkeepers**

The Manor House Hotel, Moretenhampstead – Monday 3 and Tuesday 4 November 1997: **Recruitment, Selection and Interviewing**

Marriott Hotel, Swansea – Wednesday 5 and Thursday 6 November 1997: **Essential Supervisory Management Skills for Greenkeepers**

Finnstown Hotel, Dublin – Tuesday 18 and Wednesday 19 November 1997: **Golf Course Health and Safety Management**

Finnstown Hotel, Dublin – Tuesday 18 and Wednesday 19 November 1997: **Recruitment, Selection and Interviewing**

The Country House Hotel, Ballymena – Thursday 20 and Friday 21 November 1997: **Essential Supervisory Management Skills for Greenkeepers**

Vocational Qualifications

Following publication of several letters in *Greenkeeper International*, it seems that there is still confusion about the the role, implementation and philosophy of Vocational Qualifications.

In simple terms, Vocational means, of or relating to an occupation or employment and Qualification means an accomplishment fitting a person for a position or purpose. In other words, Vocation Qualifications indicate that the holder is qualified to do a particular job. This underlying philosophy ie competence to do a job is the reason for Vocational Qualifications.

There is, however, more to VQs than that basic statement and, together with David Golding, Education Director of the Greenkeepers' Training Committee, I will be exploring VQs in more detail in future editions of this magazine.

GCSAA CONFERENCE AND SHOW, ANAHEIM, CALIFORNIA, FEBRUARY 2-8, 1998



Go Stateside!

GCSAA's 69th International Golf Course Conference and Show will be held in the Anaheim Convention Center. BIGGA will once again host a trip and the BIGGA party will meet at London Heathrow Airport on Sunday, February 1, for departure to Los Angeles at 3pm.

BIGGA will be able to arrange accommodation for any member wishing to stay overnight before the flight at competitive rates.

The Disneyland Hotel has been selected to accommodate our party and offers outstanding facilities. It is located near to the Convention Center and adjacent to Disneyland.

The GCSAA Conference and Show runs from February 2-8 with the trade show taking place from February 6-8. You will be able to attend the conference seminars and education programmes as well as take in the latest golf course equipment, products and services at the trade show.

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Sunday, February 1

All members will assemble at London Heathrow Airport and will take the 3pm Virgin Atlantic flight to Los Angeles with onward transfer to the Disneyland Hotel for an eight night stay on a room only basis inclusive of private facilities.

Monday, February 9

You will be transferred to the airport for your return overnight flight to London, departing Los Angeles at 5.30pm arriving at London

Heathrow at 11.45am on February 10.

PRICES

£845 per person based on a twin share
£ 1270 per person based on single occupancy
Plus comprehensive travel insurance for the duration at £30. Included are:

- Return Economy class flights London Heathrow/Los Angeles
- UK and US taxes
- Transfer to and from the airport to the Disneyland Hotel
- Eight nights accommodation on a room only basis and US accommodation taxes.

Please note: Registration costs for the Pre-Conference seminars which run from February 2-5, the Educational Programmes which run from 5-8 February and the Trade Show are not included in the package and bookings will need to be made directly with the Golf Course Superintendents' Association of America. Details are available from BIGGA upon request.

Please forward full payment of £875 or £1300 (unless travel insurance is not required) to BIGGA, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York, YO6 2NF to arrive no later than Friday, November 28, together with name, address and contact telephone number. If accommodation is required for the night of January 31 please advise in order for the hotel rooms to be booked. Payment will be made on checking out of the hotel. N.B. Places on this trip are limited – book early!