

**BIGGA's Education and Training Manager, Ken Richardson provides information on Continuing Professional Development and BIGGA's agreement to sell Epani's OnCourse course management software**

# EDUCATION UPDATE

## BIGGA Mission Statement

"BIGGA is dedicated to the continuing professional development of its members and in serving their needs will strive through education and training for standards of excellence in golf course management throughout the greenkeeping profession".

BIGGA continues to support greenkeeper training, through its membership of the Greenkeepers Training Committee, by offering, amongst other things, training courses both in the Regions and at BIGGA House, by presenting Conferences, Workshops and Seminars and by running a lending library.

The Association does all of this to ensure that golf courses are maintained to the highest standards, to elevate the status of greenkeepers and to allow greenkeepers to be treated as true professionals.

Most professional associations have a system of continuing professional development and BIGGA is no exception.

## BIGGA Continuing Professional Development

Thanks to contributors to the Education and Development Fund, BIGGA is encouraging the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) of greenkeepers by the introduction of its free CPD scheme for members.

British greenkeepers have a wide range of qualifications, linked to the National Standards, from N/SVQ Level 2 to first degree. Research has shown that Britain leads the way in education and training provision for greenkeepers and BIGGA has been influential in developing training that is job specific, so improving the status of the profession leading to enhanced pay and greater recognition of its members.

BIGGA has provided and continues to provide a range of education and training opportunities which support professional development. Other training providers also offer a wide range of courses which can be used as evidence of Continuing Professional Development.

The BIGGA CPD Scheme has several benefits to its members and their employers. It will encourage greenkeepers:

- To adapt out dated skills
- To keep in touch with changes in legislation
- To show employers that greenkeepers are true professionals
- To accumulate evidence towards further National Qualifications
- To give greenkeepers a means of showing current and prospective employers that they have continued their education and training beyond a minimum level
- To update skills and knowledge on a regular basis
- To promote greenkeeping as a profession
- To give greenkeepers the skills to cope with change

A BIGGA Certificate of Continuing Professional Development will be awarded to those BIGGA greenkeeper members who accumulate 10 CPD Credits annually from July to June.

BIGGA greenkeeper members who have been awarded five successive BIGGA Certificates of Continuing Professional Development will receive a BIGGA Diploma of Continuing Professional Development.

The scheme runs as follows:

1. Greenkeepers must be members of BIGGA
2. A minimum formal qualification of N/SVQ Level 2 (or equivalent) is required to enter the scheme
3. The scheme runs each calendar year from 1 July to 30 June
4. Courses, seminars, workshops and training days are awarded CPD Credits
5. Each greenkeeper must accumulate 10 Credits per year to reach the standard

6. All those reaching 10 Credits in a calendar year are awarded a Certificate
7. If an individual achieves the requirement for five consecutive years they receive a diploma
8. All training must be related to National Standards

The types of training that attract CPD credits are:

- \* BTME Seminars
- \* The National Education Conference or Workshops
- \* Regional Courses
- \* BIGGA HOUSE Courses
- \* Short Courses (eg. tractor driving, chain saw, first aid, D32/33)
- \* Approved industry courses and workshops

All BIGGA members can apply to join the CPD scheme, simply by contacting Ken or Sami at BIGGA House and by proving they are qualified to N/SVQ Level 2 or equivalent.

Each applicant will be entered into the CPD database and will be issued with their own personal record of continuation training.

All courses, seminars, workshops and conferences promoted from BIGGA House will be eligible for the award of CPD points.

All other training providers may apply for their courses, seminars, workshops and conferences to be approved by applying to BIGGA House.

Members can then ask for credits to be awarded by providing a certificate of attendance to BIGGA House.

Credits will be entered into the CPD data base and certificates will be awarded when members reach at least 10 Credits.

A full list of education and training opportunities provided by BIGGA is enclosed with this magazine, in a booklet entitled Continuing Professional Development. If you have not received your copy or need further copies then contact BIGGA House.

## Epani Golf Course Management Software

Following a period of intensive development by Epani and BIGGA, OnCourse™ version 2.1 is now ready for delivery. Several golf clubs have 'taken the plunge' and bought their copy of this exciting management package. Designed by greenkeepers for greenkeepers, it makes the job of managing staff, machinery, time and the golf course less time consuming and allows you to print out professional reports.

Easy to use for anyone with a basic knowledge of computers, it needs a computer with a Pentium processor, Windows 95 or 98 or Windows NT. At least 16 Mb of RAM and 15 Mb Hard Drive space. A CD ROM drive is needed for installation of software and you need an SVGA screen.



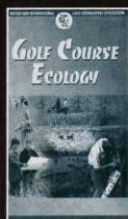
**OnCourse™**  
 THE GOLF COURSE MANAGERS SOURCE OF ADMINISTRATIVE POWER!

The software package which includes full documentation, handbook, one year telephone support and one year of updates costs £800 plus VAT. Installation and training can be provided at £150 plus VAT.

Bring your course into the 21st century by purchasing OnCourse™ 2.1.

Order forms and demonstration disks are available from Ken or Sami.

## ON COURSE WITH BIGGA EDUCATION



**Golf Course Preparation Video**  
 £14.95 to BIGGA members  
 £29.95 to non-members

**Golf Course Reconstruction Video**  
 £14.95 to BIGGA members  
 £29.95 to non-members

**Ecology Book**  
 £3.00 to BIGGA members  
 £7.00 to non-members

**Ecology Video**  
 £14.95 to BIGGA members  
 £29.95 to non-members

**Raising the Standards of Mowing Management Video**  
 £14.95 to BIGGA members  
 £29.95 to non-members

**Setting the Standard in Spraying Application Video**  
 £14.95 to BIGGA members  
 £29.95 to non-members