

This month, BIGGA's Education and Training Manager, Ken Richardson, answers some commonly asked questions

EDUCATION UPDATE

UPDATE

Watch out for news of this year's TORO Excellence in Greenkeeping Competition and TORO Student of the Year Competition in future editions of Greenkeeper International. Excellence in Greenkeeping leaflets will be delivered to all golf clubs in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland soon and Student of the Year Competition leaflets to all training providers shortly.

Thanks to the continued sponsorship of Amazone Ground Care and support from the R&A, the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition will run again this year. Full details will be sent to all golf clubs in Great Britain.

Launched at BTME, the BIGGA Essay Competition is open to entries from Course Managers/Head Greenkeepers and their deputies, Assistant Greenkeepers/Students over the age of 25 and Assistant Greenkeepers/Students under the age of 25. The prize winner in each category wins £500. The theme for this year is "Managing without chemicals" (Is it possible, is it viable, is it necessary). Watch out for further details in future editions of this magazine.

The BTME 2000 presentation made by Bettina Schrickel, "Is the grass really greener on the other side?" was unfortunately omitted from the Video Order Form for BTME 2000. The presentation is available for sale, please contact BIGGA House for an updated Order Form.

Writing this article reminds me of the visit my wife and I made, to the recording of a Carol concert some three weeks before Christmas, when we had to imagine that it was 8.05 am on Christmas morning. My wife thought it ever so odd that clergymen could mislead the general public so easily.

I hope that I will not mislead you in the following notes, which I have written to answer some of the questions raised during the recent survey carried by BIGGA HQ. It would take me a very long time to answer each question individually and, as many of them ask the same or similar questions, they can easily be answered together.

Q. Is there a demo disk for Epani?

A. At the time the question was asked, a demo disk was not available.

However, if you visited BTME then you should have been able to get information from the Epani stand. If you still need further information then please contact me again.

Q. Where can I get information on training courses?

A. In this magazine, on the Internet, from colleges, from leaflets distributed by BIGGA, in the Developing Your Potential booklet, at BTME, at Scotsturf, at Weststurf, at Saltex, from your Regional Administrator.

Q. Do BIGGA run management training courses?

A. Yes. At BIGGA House during October and November and around the regions during autumn and spring. Leaflets distributed to all golf clubs in May/June.

Q. Why don't you run more specialist courses?

A. We try to run courses to meet demand but if do not attract sufficient delegates, ie. at least six, then they have to be cancelled.

Q. Why can't BIGGA feed money back to Sections to help youngsters go to college?

A. It is the responsibility of all employers to train their staff. However, BIGGA recognises that some clubs cannot afford to send their staff to training while others prefer to spend their money elsewhere.

Therefore, BIGGA launched a refund of fees scheme some two years ago, which, thanks to the Education and Development Fund, awards refunds of up to £250 per year to those members who have to pay their own fees.

Q. Does BIGGA sell a CD ROM which contains information on greenkeeping.

A. No, but we do sell Jim Arthur's book "Practical Greenkeeping".

Moreover, the National Education Conference and BTME Seminar Transcripts for 2000 are available on CD priced £25 each.

Q. How do my City and Guilds qualifications compare with N/SVQ?

A. There is no direct comparison as the pre 1990 City and Guilds qualifications were knowledge based and N/SVQs are competence (ability to do the job) based. However, a City and Guilds Phase 2 qualification with appropriate experience may be equivalent to an N/SVQ Level 2. A City and Guilds Phase 3 plus appropriate experience may be equivalent to an N/SVQ Level 3 but some people may need top up training to meet the National Standards.

Q. How many days holiday am I entitled to?

A. A minimum of 20 days paid holiday. Unfortunately, as the law currently stands, employers may include eight public holidays within this 20 days.

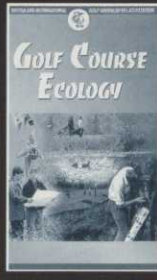
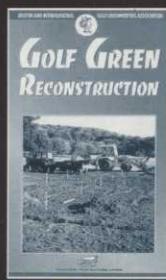
Q. Where can I get information on pesticide spraying qualifications?

A. Most colleges run pesticide training courses. BIGGA will organise courses if sufficient numbers are willing to attend (ie six delegates).

Q. What level are the current BIGGA computer courses.

A. Basic introductory level. Intermediate and advanced courses may follow as demand increases. Remember that many colleges offer Computer Literacy and Information Technology Courses (CLAIT) courses and TEC/LECS have schemes such as technology buses etc.

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