

This month, Ken Richardson, BIGGA's Education and Training Manager, explains the new minimum BIGGA membership qualification which should be introduced next year

Education the key to membership

Education opportunities at Harrogate

Continue to Learn 2002 has been specifically designed to give all delegates maximum flexibility on their education choices, offering one and two day options for both the National Education Conference and Workshop Programme.

Advertised under the new name 'Continue to Learn' the programme and booking form is now available. Highlights of the National Education Conference include the morning session on Monday 21 January which will be presented by Dr James Beard on the subjects of Water and Temperature Stresses and Shade and Wear Stresses. Tuesday 22 January sees the return of Jim Moore from the USGA Green Section. A popular and informative speaker, Jim will be discussing the Redesign and Reconstruction of Golf Course Features. Other sessions at the Conference include the effects of Global Warming and the Golf Course and Preparation for Winter Play. Three Workshops will be presented on the 2002 Programme offering delegates a choice of subjects. Due to popular demand the two day Golf Course Design 1 Workshop, presented by Simon Gidman BSc and Howard Swan MSc, makes its return to the programme. New for 2002 are one day Workshops, available on Monday 21 and Tuesday 22 January. Emergency First Aid will give delegates the opportunity to gain their Emergency First Aid Certificate, while the Environmental Management Workshop looks at the impact of ecological management on the golf course.

The STRI continues to run their popular course 'Running Golf Courses in the 21st Century'. For 2002 the course will take place on Monday 21 and Tuesday 22 January at The Majestic Hotel. The BTME Seminars commence on Wednesday 23 January with Keynote Speaker, Roger Black. The seminars will cover a wide range of subjects from Sulphur Burning to Strategic Planning. An extended seminar on Turfgrass Management will be presented by Dr James Beard on Thursday 24 January. Seminars conclude on Friday 25 January with presentations from Dr Mike Canaway, Andy Campbell, MG and Clive Osgood.

The Social Programme offers two events for 2002, The Education Dinner on Monday 21 January at The Majestic Hotel, with after dinner speaker Dr Keith Jones. The Show Banquet will take place on Thursday 24 January with a welcome return to The Majestic Hotel, featuring comedy duo Brahms and Listz, Harrogate band The Nightjars and a disco from Funtime Music. This is one event you won't want to miss!

For further details on booking your place please contact Sami Collins on 01347 833833

TORO Competitions

Full details of the TORO Student of the Year and Excellence in Greenkeeping Competitions are given elsewhere in this magazine but I would like to add my and Sami's congratulations to Andrew Pledger and Huw Morgan.

Details of the Student of the Year Competition for 2002 will be sent out in the New Year and copies of brochures and entry forms will be available at BTME.

Minimum Qualifications

The BIGGA Board of Management meeting, held on 9 October 2001, endorsed the introduction of a minimum qualification of N/SVQ Level 2 Sportsturf, or equivalent, for all NEW applications for membership received after 1 February 2002. This decision will be subject to the approval of the AGM, which will be held on Wednesday 25 January 2002, at the Majestic Hotel in Harrogate.

Why introduce a minimum qualification?

- It is Government policy that all adult workers should hold or be working towards, at least, an N/SVQ Level 2 qualification.
- The GTC is encouraging employers of greenkeepers to train all new entrants to N/SVQ Level 2 Sportsturf.
- BIGGA aims to improve the qualifications and status of greenkeepers.
- Greenkeepers want greater recognition and better pay.
- Anyone working as a greenkeeper at a golfing establishment should be competent ie. should be able to do the job without supervision.
- N/SVQ Level 2 Sportsturf comprises seven Units which include basic greenkeeping tasks such as mowing, raking, brushing, scarifying, applying top dressing, fertilising, repairing divots, irrigation, applying pesticides, rolling, course preparation, machinery, construction, estate maintenance and plant identification. Therefore, competent greenkeepers can easily become qualified.

BIGGA Membership after February 2002

- All current greenkeeper members will retain full qualified greenkeeper membership
- All greenkeepers, not currently members, applying for full greenkeeper membership, from 1 February 2002 will need a minimum qualification of N/SVQ Level 2 Sportsturf.
- All greenkeepers, not currently members, applying for membership, from 1 February 2002, who do not hold a minimum qualification, will be offered Greenkeeper Assistant Membership.
- The subscriptions for both full Greenkeeper Membership and Greenkeeper Assistant Membership will be the same ie. Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper £85, Deputy Course Manager/Deputy Head Greenkeeper £67. Greenkeepers aged 21 and over £54, Greenkeepers aged 20 and under £33 and International members £63.
- Greenkeeper members and greenkeeper assistant members will receive the same membership benefits except that unqualified members will not be able to vote at National, Regional and Section meetings nor will they be able to hold office.
- Greenkeeper assistant members may request to be upgraded to full greenkeeper membership once they become qualified.
- Any full greenkeeper member who is unqualified and leaves the Association for two years or more will be offered Greenkeeper Assistant membership on re applying.
- All current full greenkeeper members, whether qualified or not, will be enrolled onto the BIGGA CPD Scheme automatically.
- All greenkeeper assistant members will have their Membership reviewed after five years.
- All full greenkeeper members will be granted continued membership if they continue to pay a subscription and work as a greenkeeper at a golfing establishment.
- Those greenkeepers who have held full greenkeeper membership but are not currently working as a greenkeeper at a golfing establishment but remain connected with the Association, greenkeeping or the fine turf industry, should be granted continued full membership.



Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund

The Fund provides the key to the future for greenkeeper, golf club and game. Individuals and companies can join the Golden Key Circle and Silver Key Circle. For details, please contact Neil Thomas, Executive Director on 01347 833800 or via admin@bigga.co.uk



Golden Key Circle Company Members

Company	Tel: Head Office
Amazon Ground Care	01579 351155
Bernhard and Company Ltd	01788 811600
Charterhouse Turf Machinery Ltd	01428 661222
Gem Professional	01254 356611
John Deere Ltd	01949 860491
Hayter Ltd	01279 723444
Kubota UK Ltd	01844 214500
Massey Ferguson (AGCO Ltd)	02476 851292
PGA European Tour	01344 842881
Rain Bird	01273 891326
Rigby Taylor Ltd	01204 377777
Scotts UK Professional	01473 830492
Stoke Park Club	01753 717171
Textron Turf Care	01473 270000
The Toro Company/Lely UK	01202 319987

Individual Members

Mike Eastwood, J H Fry, J H Greasley, WJ Rogers, David S Robinson, Stuart Townsend, Douglas Smith



Silver Key Circle Company Members

Company	Tel: Head Office
Ernest Doe & Sons	01254 380311
Heath Lambert Group	0113 246 1313
Ocmis Irrigation	01460 241939
Sisis Equipment Ltd	01625 503030

Individual Members

Clive A Archer, John Crawford, Bruce Cruickshank, Douglas G Duguid, Alan Holmes, Kenneth Jones, Iain A MacLeod, Robert Malbusch MG, Richard S Mullen, Elliott R Small, Steven Tierney, CJ Yeaman

www.btme.org.uk

Keep checking the BTME microsite for the latest news on the various education and training options available at BTME2002