

## This month, BIGGA'S Education and Training Manager, Ken Richardson, looks at the future of Education and Training and asks you to get involved

# Education and Training - The future

BIGGA has been offering its members the chance to take part in education and training since it was formed in 1987. The majority of newcomers to greenkeeping are now trained and assessed to meet the National Standards of NVQ Level 2 in Sportsturf and some progress to Level 3 Sportsturf Maintenance and Level 4 Sportsturf Management.

Others take the more academic route and study for HNC/HND in Golf Course Management with some moving on to study for a first degree. Those who have attained a formal qualification should not sit back and stop learning, as learning should be continued throughout your career.

take part in Life Long Learning so that they can adapt their skills to the requirements of today's golf courses.

Anyone who attended the Annual General Meeting in Harrogate in January, would have heard Neil talk about the changes that were due to take place in the coming months with education and training being just one area where change may take place.

This is your chance to have your say to determine what education and training should be offered by BIGGA, where should it be, how much should it cost and how long should it last.

Think about where you fit into the model shown below and contact me or Sami, your Section Secretary, your

Regional Administrator, your Course Manager or any member of BIGGA staff and let us know what you want.

The model shows that entry to greenkeeping may be for those already holding an academic qualification or by those not yet qualified.

Unqualified entrants should be given induction training eg. health and safety, working hours, holidays, pay, pension, golf etiquette, uniform, communications with golfers etc and on the job training. They could also be sent to a training provider who would give them the appropriate underpinning knowledge and skills training. Does BIGGA have a training role here?

Some greenkeepers may wish to continue as assistants and not progress to

Level 3, however, continuing training, eg First Aid, Chainsaw, Spraying etc may be required. Does BIGGA have a training role here?

For those wanting to progress to Level 3 do we need to 'drip feed' training or are they ready to take on the higher level tasks and duties and prove competence. Does BIGGA have a training role here?

If they are ready to move to the next Level then a training provider can offer the appropriate underpinning knowledge and skills training, however, assessment should be done at work.

Some greenkeepers may wish to continue at this Level and not progress to Level 4, however, continuing training, will be required. Does BIGGA have a training role here?

For those wanting to progress to Level 4 do we need to 'drip feed' training or are they ready to take on the higher level tasks and duties and prove competence. Does BIGGA have a training role here?

If they are ready to move to this next Level then a training provider can offer the appropriate underpinning knowledge and skills training, however, assessment should be done at work.

Once reaching this Level, continuing training is still required. Does BIGGA have a training role here?

Entrants with academic qualifications also need induction training and will need to prove competence before doing unsupervised work. Where they fit into the model depends on experience and skill level. Nevertheless, they will need continuing training and development. Does BIGGA have a training role here?

BIGGA and the GTC are committed to life long learning by encouraging golf clubs and greenkeepers to 'buy into' the training options available. Training at the appropriate level is available to all greenkeepers. Use it or fall behind.



Training providers are now starting to offer what the industry has been requesting through the GTC for some time, for example distance learning and at work learning and assessment, so that greenkeepers continue to develop their careers.

BIGGA introduced its Continuing Professional Development Scheme in 2000, to encourage greenkeepers to

**The BIGGA Golf Environment Competition**  
 Following a major reorganisation, Amazone Ground Care have, unfortunately, withdrawn their sponsorship of the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition. However, with support from the R&A, the Competition will run as normal this year. Information leaflets are being sent to all golf clubs in Britain during March and requests for entry forms need to be returned to BIGGA House by 12 April. Entry forms will be sent to interested clubs by return. You should be thinking about your entry NOW. The competition is designed to reward those clubs that integrate ecological management with normal golf course management practices to ensure that golf and the environment are compatible. Why not enter? Your club could win the first prize of £4,000, a runners up prize of £500 or a special prize for the best environmental project. All clubs visited by the judges will be offered the chance to purchase a copy of the detailed report on their course, which will also include an action plan. If you do not receive your leaflet then contact BIGGA HOUSE.

**The TORO Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping**  
 The TORO Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping Competition is now open to Head Greenkeepers/Course Managers/Superintendents in the whole of the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland. With prizes like a TORO Workman 2100 Utility Vehicle and a two week trip to the USA, plus TORO Greensmaster 1000 pedestrian mower for Runners up in the National Final plus £250 for the winner's greenkeeping team. Additionally, each country finalist ie those in England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales will receive a plaque and a framed certificate. The Winner in 2000 was Ian Ritchie from Portmarnock Golf Club in Ireland. This year could be your turn. Application forms will be sent to all head greenkeepers/course manager/superintendents in Great Britain and Ireland, during March, but if you need a copy then contact BIGGA HQ. Return your application as soon as possible to reach BIGGA HOUSE for British entries or the GCSAI for Irish entries by 27 April 2001.

**The TORO Student of the Year Competition**  
 Now in its twelfth year, the search to find the TORO Student of the Year has begun. Competition details and entry forms have been sent to colleges and training providers and all entries should reach BIGGA HQ by 11 May 2001. The main points of the competition are:

1. The winner receives the TORO scholarship to the USA and visits to the TORO factories and to the GCSAA conference and show in Orlando.
2. The winner's greenkeeping lecturer wins a visit to the GCSAA conference and show in Orlando.
3. The two runners - up win an all expenses paid visit to the Learning Experience 2002 at Harrogate.
4. Regional finals will be held in six locations during late June and up to eight students will be selected for the National Final which will take place on 29 and 30 October 2001.



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 BIGGA on 01347 833800



**Golden Key Circle Company Members**

Company	Tel: Head Office
Amazone 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 394888
Scotts UK Professional	01473 830492
Textron Turf Care	01473 270000
The Toro Company/Lely UK	01202 319887

**Individual Members**

Mike Eastwood, J H Fry, J H Greasley, David S Robinson, Stuart Townsend



**Silver Key Circle Company Members**

Company	Tel: Head Office
Ernest Doe & Sons	01254 380311
Heath Lambert Ltd	0113 246 1313
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Sisis Equipment Ltd	01625 503030
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**Individual Members**

Clive A Archer, John Crawford, Bruce Cruickshank, Douglas G Duguid, Alan Holmes, Iain A MacLeod, Robert Maibusch MG, Richard S Mullen, Elliott R Small, Steven Tierney, Raymond J Warrander, WJ Rogers, Kenneth Jones