

This month, **BIGGA's Education and Training Manager, Ken Richardson**, reports on some of the latest education and training developments available to Greenkeepers, and gives updates on the entry progress of our various competitions

# Top Level Greenkeeping degree

## UPDATE

**TORO Student of the Year Competition**  
 The deadline for entries to this year's TORO Student of the Year Competition is approaching. Make sure that your entry is sent to reach BIGGA HOUSE by 11 May 2001.

**TORO Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping**  
 All Head Greenkeepers/Course Managers/Superintendents in Britain and Ireland should have received a copy of this year's Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping Entry form. If you have not received a copy then contact BIGGA HOUSE, if you live in Britain or the GCSA, if you live in Ireland and you will be sent an entry form by return.

**BIGGA Golf Environment Competition**  
 Entry forms for this year's Golf Environment Competition are arriving at BIGGA HOUSE. If you wish to enter and have not received an entry form then contact BIGGA on 01347 833800.

**CPD Continuing Professional Development**  
 The BIGGA Continuing Professional Development Scheme is rapidly approaching the end of its first year. Certificates are being prepared for those who have accumulated 10 credits and will be dispatched soon. More details on BIGGA CPD will appear in future editions of Greenkeeper International, and on the BIGGA website at [www.bigga.org.uk](http://www.bigga.org.uk)

**You've got m@il!**  
 If you've got an email account why not send an email to the education department, where we can place you into our exclusive education email address book. We can then keep you up-to-date with education news and events as they happen.

Send an email to:  
[education@bigga.co.uk](mailto:education@bigga.co.uk)  
[ken@bigga.co.uk](mailto:ken@bigga.co.uk)  
[sami@bigga.co.uk](mailto:sami@bigga.co.uk)

Observant readers will have noticed an announcement, in the April edition of this magazine, about an exciting new course for greenkeepers which starts in September this year when Cranfield University introduce a Master of Science Degree in Sports Surface Technology.

The course aims to combine academic and technical skills, covering advanced principles of soil, water and vegetation management plus mechanisation, irrigation, construction and business management.

The course is split into 12 modules.

- Soil/Plant/Water relationships
- Soil Science
- Mechanisation for Sports Surfaces
- Sports Surface Playability
- Irrigation and Drainage for Sports Surfaces
- Irrigation Management and Optimisation
- Management of Sports Facilities
- Turfgrass Science and Technology
- Management Accounting
- Project Planning and Operations
- Human Resource Management
- Sports Surface Construction for Natural and Artificial Surfaces

Assessment will be two three hour examination papers, continuous assessment and a project based module.

The course may be full time ie. 45 weeks of full time study or part time ie. the equivalent of 45 weeks full time study, which may be distance learning. The duration of the course will normally be one year with a maximum duration of five years.

For entry to the course, candidates should hold a first or second class honours degree from a UK university or an equivalent qualification. In certain cases, a blend of qualifications and relevant experience may be accepted.

For further details contact Alex Vickers, Course Director MSc Sports Surface Technology, Cranfield University, Silsoe, Beds, MK45 4DT.

### New Learning Innovation From Myerscough College

Myerscough College recently launched their Internet learning platform. Piloted in Knowlsey at the Greenkeeping Academy from the college's Croxeth Park Centre -Liverpool, the system currently has over 40 stu-

dents studying varying NVQ's from level 2 to level 4 amenity management, from the UK to Williamsburg USA. Endorsed by the GTC the system can be adapted to suit everyone's learning needs from craft level 2 to NVQ 4 for Course Managers.

The Myerscough on-line System is a web-based learning platform that helps the teaching and learning of sportsturf NVQ's Levels 1 - 4. Students can be engaged in an effective learning process involving sophisticated software and interaction with other students as well as their on-line tutor. Students are supplied with their own personal password that will log them into their specific chosen qualification where they can access various relevant course materials and support packages enabling them to complete the NVQ qualification.

Interaction between the student and teacher is achieved by the teacher using specific web-based tools. Students can access support material, complete unit tests and quizzes, send e-mails to other students and much more. Students that submit their work on-line can have it graded and sent back along with the tutors feedback. Any problems the students may have with the course or a particular subject area can be dealt with by either using the 'bulletin board', where all on-line students can monitor and critique the answer or by using private e-mail between a particular student and his/her tutor.

The beauty of on-line learning is that course material is accessible almost any time of the day, and more so, material is often available for courses not currently being taken, giving the student the opportunity to preview them in advance. Students can also link searching for information on the world wide web with their course work, enabling more information to be analysed. Qualifications can be attained outside normal working hours which may suit certain employers, but at the same time giving the student chance to collate information from work-based experiences.

For further information on online learning from Myerscough or details on NVQ sportsturf workbooks, contact: Paul McGrail (Training Co-ordinator) Croxeth Park Centre: 0151 228 7162 or e-mail: [croxeth@croxeth.fsbusiness.co.uk](mailto:croxeth@croxeth.fsbusiness.co.uk)



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](mailto: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	01279 891326
Rigby Taylor Ltd	01204 394888
Scotts UK Professional	01473 830492
Textron Turf Care	01473 270000
The Toro Company/Lely UK	01202 319987

### 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 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, Iain A MacLeod, Robert Maibusch MG, Richard S Mullen, Elliott R Small, Steven Tierney, Raymond J Wamender, WJ Rogers, Kenneth Jones

## ON COURSE WITH BIGGA EDUCATION

<p><b>Golf Course Preparation Video</b>                  £14.95 to BIGGA members                  £29.95 to non-members</p> <p><b>Golf Course Reconstruction Video</b>                  £14.95 to BIGGA members                  £29.95 to non-members</p> <p><b>Ecology Book</b>                  £3.00 to BIGGA members                  £7.00 to non-members</p>	<p><b>Ecology Video</b>                  £14.95 to BIGGA members                  £29.95 to non-members</p> <p><b>Raising the Standards of Mowing Management Video</b>                  £14.95 to BIGGA members                  £29.95 to non-members</p>	<p><b>Setting the Standard in Spraying Application Video</b>                  £14.95 to BIGGA members                  £29.95 to non-members</p> <p><b>Irrigation Video</b>                  £14.95 to BIGGA members                  £29.95 to non-members</p>
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**ORDER YOUR COPY TODAY!**

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