



BIGGA's Education and Training Manager, Ken Richardson makes a plea for more feedback, advises on Regional Training and continues his Key Skills Corner

Education and Training Feedback

There have been a number of comments posted on the BIGGA website referring to the National Education Conference, Workshops and Seminars held at Harrogate in January, some positive and others negative. Sami and I try to meet the education and training needs of all greenkeepers by arranging a variety of education and training opportunities at Harrogate and around the Regions. We regularly ask greenkeepers what subjects and presenters they would like to see for example, we issued 300 feedback sheets at Harrogate in January, but we get very little feedback. We interpret this to mean that the vast majority of BIGGA members are happy to let us do the work of selecting speakers and topics and are happy with the results. One suggestion that we do get is "more greenkeeper presenters". Who are they? Are they willing to speak? Are they worth listening to?

Let us know your ideas by writing, phoning, sending an e-mail to ken@bigga.co.uk, using the bulletin

board, speaking to us direct, speaking to your Regional Administrator or Section Secretary.

Regional Training

The Spring series of BIGGA Regional Training Courses is drawing to a close with greenkeepers attending courses as diverse as Basic Computing, Soil Science, Essential Management Skills, Budgets and Finance, Presentation Skills, Chainsaw Use and Health and Safety. We can afford to present such a wide range of courses at very heavily subsidised prices thanks to our Education and Development Fund. You could cover the cost of several years membership by attending just one course. For example each one day course costs BIGGA approximately £1500. Each delegate pays £30 and we average six delegates per course. Therefore the total subsidy is £1320 and dividing this by six gives a subsidy per delegate of £220. Who says it is not worth becoming a BIGGA member?

The Connexions Card

The Government is keen to encourage 16-19 year olds, in England, to stay in learning and acquire the skills they need to flourish in adult life and has introduced a scheme called the Connexions Card. The card is available free of charge to over 2 million young people and it works by awarding points for regular attendance at school, college, at work based learning and for voluntary work. From 2002 onwards, active cardholders will be able to exchange their points for branded goods or services, interesting opportunities and exciting experiences. There is also a loyalty scheme whereby cardholders can receive discounts and special offers from a range of retailers including computer games, fast food, clothes, leisure activities, travel and CDs.

To get more information, telephone 0808172 3333 or look at the Connexions Card website: www.connexionscard.com



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

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YOU'VE GOT MAIL!

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 either:
education@bigga.co.uk ken@bigga.co.uk sami@bigga.co.uk

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For more detailed information and a free demonstration CD, please contact ken@bigga.co.uk 01347 833800

OnCourse is a continually expanding company specialising in information technology for the game of Golf. Bringing satisfaction and enjoyment to golfers around the world is our highest priority. In doing so, we offer a complete solution of services aimed towards golf associations, golf districts, golf clubs and even the individual golfer. We want to share our expertise, knowledge, experience and our effective management in leading the world of golf in the 21st century.



EDUCATION KEY SKILLS CORNER

Regular readers will have seen the first Key Skills Corner in last month's Greenkeeper International, where I left you with a poser about Full Stops. Check to see if you found all the errors:

Welcome to BIGGA HOUSE. Today is Tuesday, the 3rd of March. The next Public Holiday, in England, will be Easter.

This month's subject is full stops and alternative ways to end a sentence.

For example, closing a sentence.

The Staff of BIGGA Headquarters support the Jeans for Genes Charity.

With abbreviations.

Note that full stops could be placed in the acronym BIGGA (B.I.G.G.A.) but modern writing tends not to use them.

Abbreviations such as Mr, Mon, Apr could have full stops but modern writing tends not to use them.

As a decimal point.

The Golf Club Budget showed a deficit of £67.50.

To show missing text.

Item 4.11 on the Agenda should be amended to read "... referred to the Green Committee".

The only other punctuation marks that can be used to close a sentence are exclamation marks and question marks.

Question marks should be used only for a direct question.

What time does the shop open?

Exclamation marks do not, usually, have a place in business writing however, they can be used to highlight text for humour or great emphasis.

Here is an example for you to try, which incorporates errors with capital letters and with full stops and question marks.

thank you for attending the recent annual general meeting of the south north east section i have enclosed a copy of the minutes for your information please contact sid jones if you wish to attend the next golf day do you wish to attend btme this year

Good luck. Watch out for the answer in the May Edition of Greenkeeper International.