



BIGGA Education and Training Manager, Ken Richardson, highlights the latest education and training available to BIGGA members

Continue to Learn 2003

Plans for Continue to Learn 2003 are progressing well. The programme will again allow delegates to 'pick and mix' various learning options to ensure that all delegates gain the maximum benefit from their time in Harrogate.

The Continue to Learn Programme includes:

Monday 20 January and Tuesday 21 January

Two day Workshops

Golf Course Design 2 with Howard Swan and Simon Gidman. Continue to discover the secrets of golf course design, presented in this 'hands on' workshop. Note, delegates should, previously, have attended a Golf Course Design 1 Workshop.

I gained a tremendous amount from this workshop.

Howard and Simon are very enthusiastic and I gained a lot of knowledge.

An excellent sequel to Golf course Design 1.

An extended version of last year's Workshop, Golf Course Environmental Management, with Bob Taylor, Jonathan Smith and Fiona MacIntyre. Learn how to survey your course, how to produce an environmental management plan and how to manage your course with an environmentally sympathetic regime by attending this extended workshop.

Very useful, it made me think.

Had to absorb a lot of information in one day

One Day Workshop

Soil Science with Dennis Mortram. Introduced at Harrogate, following

its success around the Regions, this Workshop introduces delegates to the mysteries of soil science. An ideal first course in soil science or as revision for those who have not studied for some time.

Very good course, easy to follow, straight to the point.

I gained a lot of knowledge from this course.

A good day. Very good value.

National Education Conference

Attend the Conference on both Monday 20 January and Tuesday 21 January or attend either Monday or Tuesday, the choice is yours.

The theme for the 2003 Conference is Golf Course Management.

Monday 20 January 2003

Monday continues in the theme of Management with Master Greenkeeper, Kerran Daly, describing his Management Style at Gog Magog Golf Club, followed by Tony Mears looking at the Course Manager's responsibilities for Training and Development. Frank Newberry completes this session by looking at the link between a Business Plan and a Management Plan.

Tuesday 21 January 2003

The theme of Management continues in this session but looks more closely at Managing the Golf Course. John Nicholson, from John Nicholson Associates, start the proceedings by describing the Course Manager's role in Tree and Woodland Management. Simon Barnaby, from Scotts UK, considers how Course Managers will cope when less and less chemicals are available for Fine Turf.

Following the break, Chris Byrd, from Milliken Chemicals, concen-

trates on the benefits of an integrated foliar feed programme closely followed by Keith Happ, from the USGA, who considers what to do about Pesticide Runoff.

Dr Richard Earl and Justin Smith, both from Turftrax Ground Management, start the afternoon session with a look at Aspects of Soil Science and Soil Water Movement followed by Master Greenkeeper, Steve Cook, describing his technical preparations for holding the Ryder Cup at Oakland Hills in 2004.

The final paper of the Conference is presented by Ken Siems, Course Manager at Loch Lomond Golf Club. Ken will describe the Research on Grass Species, recently completed at Loch Lomond.

Watch out for more details in the next edition of Greenkeeper International.

Regional Training

The deadline for the Autumn and Spring series of Region and Section Training Courses is approaching.

If you would like to see a training course in your Section then speak to your Section Secretary, Regional Administrator or contact me direct at BIGGA House. We are planning a range of courses, already, including Essential Management Skills, Tractor Driving, Health and Safety, Pesticide Application, Basic Computer Skills etc.

NPTC Assessors

The National Proficiency Test Council are looking for volunteers to fill a number of vacancies for assessors. NPTC assessors can be used to assess greenkeepers in a range of skills eg. Forestry, Machinery Operation and Pesticide Application.

Anyone interested in taking on this challenging role should send their CV to David Golding at the GTC, Aldwark Manor, Alne, York. YO61 1UF.



Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund

Unlock the doors to progress through BIGGA's Education and Development Fund - the key to a great future for greenkeepers, golf clubs and the game of golf.

Golden and Silver Key Membership is available to both companies and individuals.

For details, please contact Neil Thomas on 01347 833800 or via neil@bigga.co.uk

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Golf Club members and owners are continually demanding better quality playing conditions, which brings the roll of Golf Course Managers into sharp focus. Not only are they expected to keep the course in excellent condition they also have to be skilled administrators and personnel managers. Additionally, Golf Club Managers need detailed and well-structured reports on golf course operations, which can be a time consuming task. OnCourse™ has been developed to make all of these things easier.

For more detailed information and a free demonstration CD, please contact

ken@bigga.co.uk 01347 833800

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