

Education and Training Manager, Ken Richardson, unveils the Greenkeepers' Training and Development Manual.

The first Harrogate Week is now over and my thoughts are turning to a New Year of education and training opportunities. Many of you will have been at the AGM and heard me mention one of the projects that we are involved with. This is the introduction of a web-based Greenkeeper Training and Development Manual that will be launched towards the end of this month.



## GREENKEEPERS' TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT MANUAL

When the BIGGA Board of Management set up the Futures sub-committee some five years ago, there were a number of points put forward for discussion. One of these was the need for advice on the recruitment and selection of greenkeepers, advice on how to train them and advice on how to produce the golf course managers of tomorrow.

The BIGGA Board of Management decided that the best method of presenting this advice, given the need to stick to a set budget, was to use the Internet. The Greenkeepers Training and Development Manual has been developed to be a fully interactive resource that will work with any Internet connection. However, it is best viewed using a broadband connection.

Access to the Manual for BIGGA members will be through the BIGGA website, www.bigga.org.uk. Members of the Association of Golf Club Secretaries (AGCS) will be able to access the Manual from the AGCS website, www.agcs.co.uk.

BIGGA members will need to log onto the Members' Pages and select Training and Development Manual, whereas members of the AGCS will be able to access the Manual from their members' area. Golf Club Secretaries

will not be able to access any other member's only areas of the BIGGA website.

Once you have been connected, the Manual defaults to a Welcome and user guide page. This page contains information on how to use the site. You can then enter the main site by clicking on Enter the site and the Intro page appears. You can, if you wish, skip the intro and this page appears. Clicking the Hole 1 flag takes you to this screen. The manual contains three main types of information and these are: Text, Sub Text and Video. It also contains hypertext links to other relevant web sites.

The Text tab takes you to the text related to that page, the video tab takes you to a related video clip and sub text takes you to a list of downloadable options. These options include hyperlinks, draft forms, draft job specifications, draft handbooks, etc. Downloading the draft form should open your default word processing package and open the relevant document.

You can then add your own information and edit items such as the golf club name and print the document. There is also a link to an example training path that shows how the site relates to your needs and to the needs of your staff.

You can enter the manual at any point and you do not need to follow in through hole by hole. For example, if you just wanted to look at the information on Estates Manager, you go straight to hole 18.

Hopefully, the golf course and golf club managers of today will be able to use the Manual to design training and development plans for all of their staff, accessing the most appropriate education and training courses at the appropriate time, leading to the managers of today helping to develop the managers of tomorrow.

Access to the site is free to all members of BIGGA and to all members of the AGCS. Non-members of either Organisation can gain access by becoming a member of the relevant Organisation.



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For details, please contact Ken Richardson on

01347 833800 or via ken@bigga.co.uk

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