



Ken Richardson discusses the department's latest projects

The countdown is running to the release onto the Internet of the BIGGA/AGCS Safety Management System and Ken Richardson gives an overview of how you can access the site and start producing your own Safety Management System. Ken also takes a closer look at Continuing Professional Development schemes.

National Register of Spray Operators (NRoSO)

NRoSO is a register of sprayer operators who use CPD as a means of on-going training. The Scheme is open to anybody who holds an appropriate NPTC PA certificate of competence, or was born before December, 31, 1964 and is applying pesticides under "Grandfather Rights". As a member you are required to collect 30 or more CPD points in each three-year period to qualify for membership renewal. A similar range of education and training as in the BIGGA Scheme attract CPD credits. For example an in-house, one-day health and safety workshop would attract 12 credits. For full details go to www.nroso.nptc.org.uk

Organisers of education and training who wish to have their event recognised for the award of NRoSO credits can download an application form from www.nroso.nptc.org.uk/events.aspx or contact NPTC on 024 76857300

The BIGGA CPD Scheme

All greenkeeper members of BIGGA are entitled to join the BIGGA CPD Scheme. It encourages greenkeepers to adapt outdated skills, keep in touch with changes in legislation, update skills and knowledge, promote greenkeeping as a profession and give them the skills to cope with change. If you accumulate 10 credits in the year 1 July to 30 June, you will be awarded a Certificate. Moreover, if you are awarded five consecutive Certificates, you will receive a diploma in CPD. All types of education and training could attract CPD credits; for example, a one-day seminar could attract 3 credits. Contact BIGGA to have your course, seminar, workshop or conference registered.

The BIGGA CPD Scheme is free to join and application forms are available from BIGGA House.

Golf Course Superintendents Association of America

Class A members of the GCSAA need show that they are keeping their knowledge and skills up to date by participating in on-going training. The GCSAA Scheme is similar to the BIGGA CPD Scheme in that superintendents can gain credits for a wide range of education and training. BIGGA works with the GCSAA to gain recognition for its workshops and seminars at Harrogate each year and both UK based members of the GCSAA and visitors from overseas can take advantage of the arrangement.

BIGGA/AGCS Safety Management System

The launch of the BIGGA/AGCS Internet based Safety Management System sponsored by Ransomes Jacobsen is fast approaching. This interactive resource that has been in development for almost two years, has been designed to make it possible for all golf clubs to produce a safety management system for the whole club. It has been designed by a team of software experts, using inputs from golf course managers and golf club secretaries, to be a practical, easy to use system that should help clubs to conform with health and safety law, follow codes of practice and make golf courses safer places to work and play.

The resource will be available, free of charge to all members of BIGGA and/or members of the AGCS, through each Association's website. Check the members area of the BIGGA website to see if the system is up and running.

More details on the System, plus a handy reference guide will appear in the May edition of Greenkeeper International.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

There are many CPD schemes operating for a variety of trades and professions. The four main CPD schemes for greenkeepers, groundsmen and others working with fine turf management are the BIGGA Scheme, the BASIS Scheme, the NRoSO Scheme and the GCSAA Scheme. The Schemes have been designed to show that turf professionals are continuing to improve their knowledge and skills, thereby keeping up to date with changes in their industries.

BASIS Registration

To be a member of the Register demonstrates that each person is technically qualified in line with Government legislation and that they are updated on an annual basis. To remain on the Register, individuals need to accrue annual Continuing Professional Development (CPD) points. Many BIGGA courses seminars and workshops attract BASIS CPD credits. For details of membership go to www.basis-reg.com/index2.asp.



Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund

BIGGA GOLDEN KEY and SILVER KEY MEMBERSHIP

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 Ken Richardson on 01347 833800 or via kem@bigga.co.uk

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