



Stihl brushcutters. A better choice for cutting tough grass, scrub and vibration.

Naturally, any hard working professional wants a brushcutter with the power to make short work of the thickest undergrowth.

But if you're working all day long, comfort and safety are equally high priorities.

That's why all Stihl's high performance brushcutters are fitted with an advanced and outstandingly effective



anti-vibration system – just one of a range of innovative features that make them easier and less tiring to use.

For a copy of our new catalogue call us free today, quoting GKIS.

Or visit us at Saltex Stand D21.

FREEPHONE 0800 137574.
Stihl Ltd, Department GKIS,
FREEPOST, Camberley,
Surrey, GU15 3BR.



www.stihl.co.uk

STIHL®

Address your letters to the Editor, Greenkeeper International, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF. You can also fax them to 01347 833801, or email them to reception@bigga.co.uk

Take sensible precautions with pests

I would like to make a few points in response to last month's article entitled, 'Pesssst! Have you heard?'

Let me begin by saying that we fully recognise that golf courses have to deal with pests. That point is not in doubt. However, we should approach this sensitive issue with a degree of balance.

Firstly, it is vital that we correctly identify the pest and come up with solutions for specific pests. In drawing together those solutions, it is important to define what the parameters are for managing each pest.

For example, I was concerned that badgers were rather superficially mentioned in an article alongside rabbits, without recognising the huge differences in legislation and protection which applies to each species. Just to be clear, badgers are a protected species under the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act and the 1992 Protection of Badgers Act. Under this legislation it is illegal to wilfully kill, injure or take any badger or attempt to do any of these things. It is also an offence to intentionally damage, destroy or obstruct access to any part of a badger sett.

The article could also have put the damage caused by different pest species into context. For all the golf courses which will have badgers on or around them, how many actually experience unacceptable levels of damage in sensitive parts of the course? I appreciate they can cause damage, but it is perhaps wrong to give the impression that if there are badgers, damage is automatic, and that management requires total invertebrate control.

It was suggested that damage to turf could be controlled through the 'removal' of their food supply. This is perhaps unrealistic and could be a very expensive exercise - attempting to remove the huge range of invertebrates found on a golf course. Furthermore, badgers are true omnivores, feeding on a wide range of plants, invertebrates and other mammals. They even feed on young rabbits during the Spring. Spraying, on the scale required, would not only be costly, it would have knock on effects for other non target species, many of which may be beneficial to turf health.

In a time when golf is attempting to demonstrate concern about the environment and undo some of the bad press it has been getting, I think we should be carefully assessing whether pesticides, and particularly insecticides, are required at any given time, and if a greenkeeper feels they are necessary, how can their use be minimised. Clearly, setting a threshold for pest damage is one way in which applications can be minimised and potentially needless expense saved. Spraying on the basis that something might happen is not a good generalisation to make.

Yes we need to control pests on golf courses, but let us make sure that management of pests is sensible, based on sound understanding of each pest. Above all, control should be effective and efficient. If this is the case pest control can be carried out without wasting money, and without needlessly damaging the environment.

Jonathan Smith
Golf Course Wildlife Adviser

Bio research: There's a lot of it going on

In your article in the June edition on Aventis it was mentioned that Aventis is the only company in the UK conducting research into new products for sports turf.

Actually there is a thriving commercial research community combining UK companies and university and college research.

Symbio, which incidentally is celebrating its 10th anniversary in August, was

the first in Europe to research, develop and launch a range of biological solutions for sports turf management. We have a link with the University of Surrey, and two full time research staff on product development.

Symbio was the first company to introduce the concept of adding specially chosen bacteria and fungi for improved nutrient uptake. We then developed and launched biotech solutions for that

reduction and black layer treatment. In 1997, in research sponsored by Symbio with the University of London, we identified the link which shows how increased mycorrhizal colonisation can reduce the incidence of poa annua.

Our ongoing research is focussed on the use of biotechnology in integrated disease and pest control.

Martin Ward, Symbio

Fungicide application rates. How much?

I am sending this message to correct a couple of passages published in the talking heads article July edition. The article read that I applied 200 litres of fungicide a month which has been reduced to 70 litres a month. The message I tried to convey was that in my first two years at Downfield we used 200 litres of fungicide based on 20 litres per application, however, over the peri-

od of the last two and a half years we have reduced this to 70 litres in total. At Downfield we have worked very hard to reduce our chemical use through sensible cultural practices, and I feel that the decrease in our use of fungicides has highlighted our sound management.

In the case of the St. Marks fly, I mentioned that it had the characteristics of a disease at first with severe

browning of the turf but this was isolated to small areas of tees and fairways. In fact, it is an insect that eats away at the roots of the grass plant, eventually leaving it discoloured. I hope these corrections will keep environmentalists and salesmen at bay.

Paul Murphy, Course Manager,
Downfield GC, Dundee, Via email

PHOTOCAST TEE SIGNS

By
 EAGLE PROMOTIONS

Scorecards • Course Measurement • Yardage Books • Tee Signs
Event Boards • Leaderboards • Notice Boards • Bag Tags • Green Fee Tickets
Call Philip McInley on : 01883 344244
email us: eaglepromotions@compuserve.com

visit our website @ www.eaglepromotions.co.uk

Sad passing of Jimmy Coffey

Jimmy Coffey died in Stobhill Hospital in June. He was 75 years of age.

In years gone past he was a staunch member of SIGGA. After many years of service on the committee of the West Section he was elected Chairman where he had a happy and successful time.

Jimmy started his working life as a greenkeeper under his father, Bob Coffey, at Balmore Golf Club. The war intervened and Jimmy joined the Royal Navy where he rose to the rank of Petty Officer and saw service in the Far East. On return from war service he again took up his position at Balmore. After a short spell he applied and secured the Head Greenkeeper's job at Kirkhill. He had a few years there before his father retired from Balmore Golf Club and Jimmy was requested to go back as the Head Greenkeeper. This he did willingly and spent the remainder of his working life at Balmore until his retirement in 1990.

One of Jimmy's greatest loves was the study of nature. There was not a

bird, flower, tree, beast or fish that he did not know. In his younger days he was a fair golfer and picked up many prizes at our golf outings at a handicap of six. He was especially fond of fishing and travelled all over Scotland fishing many of the salmon rivers and lochs.

Like most greenkeepers he enjoyed his work. Together with his duties as Head Greenkeeper he ran the Pro shop at Balmore. Often over a dram, he and I would discuss our relative courses, and, as the evening went on, we always came to the same conclusion - what lovely courses we would have without the golfers.

I will remember Jimmy either on some well stocked salmon river up to his haughs, or wandering up some Highland burn looking for deep pools where the trout were lying.

Jimmy is survived by his ever caring and loving wife, Marian, and his son Robert and family. All of us who knew Jimmy extend to all his family our sincere condolences.

Cecil George, Lenzie

Is there help at hand?

I obtained your email address through the BIGGA website and have taken the liberty of contacting you in the hope that you may be able to help me.

My name is Michael Harris and I am 23 years old. I currently live in Lesotho, Africa and would like to move to the UK to further my career. Last year I studied and passed a course in Sports Turf Management through the auspices of the Pretoria Technical College (Technikon) in South Africa and during this period I held the position of Assistant Greenkeeper at the Services Golf Club in Pretoria.

I believe it would benefit me greatly to gain more experience in the UK as either an assistant or apprentice on one of your courses or any other sports turf related facility.

I would greatly appreciate it if you could give me the address of anyone who might assist me in achieving my goals.

I am a British citizen and hold a British passport.

I thank you in anticipation of your assistance in this matter.

Michael Harris
Email: terryel@ilesoto.com

Worrying: Duguid legal case

Thursday June 1st will long be remembered by Dougal Duguid, his family, friends and greenkeepers worldwide. Common sense prevailed, a man and his family were able to breathe easily again and a profession was left to ponder what will come next.

It is unfortunate that we live in a society now where litigation is a growing trend. Just listen to the radio adverts that openly encourage people to sue and it is worrying.

As a colleague who knows Dougal from my visits to Harrogate, I congratulate him on his success and wish him and his family happier times than they have had during this long and worrying case. We must all learn from this case and its serious implications, even though Dougal rightly won. As he said, what if...?

Alexander McCombie
Parkstone GC, Poole, Dorset
Via email





Above: Turf quickly established by incorporating ENVIGRO into the soil/root zone prior to turfing

ENVIGRO™

THE HUMUS RICH ORGANIC FERTILISER

ENVIGRO is the new organic fertiliser produced by the rapid composting of nitrogen-rich manures and other organic materials. ENVIGRO can be used when seeding areas of very poor soil such as shale, and sand, so avoiding the need to bring in topsoil. A fine grade of Envigro is produced specifically for use on established turf on professional sports grounds.

IDEAL FOR

INCREASING THE FERTILITY OF ROOT ZONES AND TOP DRESSINGS IF REQUIRED

A TYPICAL ANALYSIS

N-3.5%	P-2.1%	K-3.4%
ORGANIC MATTER 95%		

TRACE ELEMENTS (PPM)

OCCURRING NATURALLY				
Mg-140	Zn-175	Mo-1.5	B-8.0	Cu-80

MICROBIAL CONTENT

VERY LARGE NUMBERS OF MICRO-ORGANISMS ARE PRESENT (MORE THAN 1,000,000,000 PER GM OF FERTILISER)
--

ADVANTAGES OF ENVIGRO

High humus, good water retention, no artificial chemicals, high microbial content, need only apply every 6 months, free-flowing, slow release, easy to use, available in various screen sizes, fantastic value.



"ENVIGRO made a difference within weeks - and the difference has lasted!"
Phil Siddle, Head Greenkeeper
Rossendale Golf Club (inset)

GROWING TRIALS PROVE THAT TURF TREATED WITH ENVIGRO OUT PERFORM THE REST

ENVIGRO™

THE HUMUS RICH ORGANIC FERTILISER

ENVIGRO will put life back into the soil through the naturally occurring fungi and bacteria it contains

For use in the construction, re-instatement and maintenance of tees, greens surrounds, approaches and fairways. Can also be used for any problem areas suffering to overplay, compaction or poor soil conditions.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL FREEPHONE:

0800 7313831

AND SEE THE RESULTS IN 2 WEEKS

VISIT US AT
SALTEX
STAND
K24

AND HAYDOCK PARK
STAND
F24

Laura Knights, Environmental Health and Safety Facilitator at Textron, looks at the health and safety issues in the design and manufacturing of modern turf maintenance equipment and in the great number of safety procedures involved in making safe products...



Safety in numbers



Above: The Unigraphics CAD system helps design safety features in the early stages of new product development

With the highly competitive markets of today, the design of new machinery and the continued improvement of established models is all important to companies vying to remain in the forefront of the turf care market. Not only do products have to provide quality and functionality, they also have to be increasingly safe in operation.

With safety now high on the agenda and European legislation on machinery safety tightening, the designers and manufacturers of turf care equipment have to be ever tougher in incorporating all aspects of safety into their products.

Textron Turf Care and Specialty Products are one of the market leaders in the manufacture of turf care and grass cutting machinery with a UK manufacturing site based at Ipswich in Suffolk. As one of Textron's seven design and manufacturing Centres of Excellence dedicated to both the golf and municipality markets, we know only too well the tough stance needed on safety. We have been designing and manufacturing grass cutting machinery for the last 160 years and have witnessed the increasing requirement for safe machinery that must now comply with tough European standards.

The team of design engineers at Textron work to the principal British Standard on safety of lawnmowers (BS EN 836 : 1997 - Garden equipment - Powered Lawnmowers - Safety) when designing new products or bringing existing products up to the high level of both performance and safety that is now required and expected.

The process begins with the 'Product Definition' stage derived from the marketing side of the company. This stage charts the requirement for a new product to fit a market niche or for an existing product to be improved and is the birthplace of new

ideas. At this stage there are few safety aspects taken into consideration, as the key aim at this point is to identify and conceptualise potentially new or existing product development opportunities.

The 'Product Definition' will pass from marketing to the design engineers who really begin to move the project forward. They will effectively answer marketing's proposal by looking at the viability of the project, what can realistically be achieved and delivered whilst maintaining all the aspects of performance, quality and safety. If it is agreed that the project is viable and financially attractive then the design team will progress with the project plan and begin working through the design stages. It is at this point that the safety aspects come into play.

Working with the guidelines set down in BS EN 836 the conceptual, layout and detailed design stages will incorporate all the required safety aspects into the design or re-design of the product. The British Standard includes aspects on almost every conceivable safety issue including guarding, access to hot surfaces and power driven or cutting means (blades etc.), as well as the associated noise and vibration levels. It is fundamental that the stringent safety requirements are fully achievable in the final product and using the computer aided design (CAD) system 'Unigraphics', which is also used by the aeronautical industry, throughout the design phase means that these requirements are being realised at an earlier stage in the project. Previous-

ly, using traditional design methods, it was often at the later prototype stage that unacceptable safety issues became apparent. Now with the 'Unigraphics' system utilising 1:1 scale three-dimensional modelling, more of these issues can be identified and rectified at a much earlier, and less costly, stage.

Once the product has reached the end of the design stage the scene is set to begin the prototype work. Textron have in-house manufacturing and experimental production capabilities at Ipswich allowing the new or redesigned product prototype to be built on site. With the progression into the actual manufacture of parts and the building of prototypes the safety aspect of the project takes on a different twist; that of safety during production. Obviously health and safety not only applies to the machinery itself during its use but also there are safety implications to be taken into account during the manufacture of the machine. With any new production job there is the potential for unforeseen hazards. To help minimize these the project team is multi-disciplinary, with members of the manufacturing and assembly departments taking an active role in the pre-production stages to help identify and rectify any potential hazards in the production process. This along with Textron's strong stance on health and safety in the workplace means that the prototype can be made as safely as possible.

Full scale, fully functional prototypes will be built and it is at this point that the first part of testing and

approval for European and other legal requirements, including vital safety requirements, begin in earnest. The machine will undergo a rigorous testing regime by the in-house test team who look at safety aspects in line with British and European safety standards.

All aspects are covered including - guarding, rotating blades/shafts, safety signs/labels, hot surfaces, exhaust fume protection, noise and vibration levels and OPC's (operator presence controls) that prevent the machine being operated or continuing to operate in the absence of an operator. This series of tests will highlight areas of concern and a report detailing all the areas where further action is required is passed back to the project team by the test team.

This process will continue, with adjustments and improvements in the design followed by further testing, until all involved are happy and the machine meets all the stringent safety standards required.

Only when we're happy with the results of these tests, are the product prototypes sent for further testing in an end-user environment to further identify any issues on all aspects of the design, including safety. Following feedback from customer trials some further changes may be made but essentially the next stage will be to enter into pre-production. Again the safety hazards of production are reduced by the strong stance on health and safety taken within Textron Turf Care combined with the involvement of manufacturing personnel in the multi-disciplinary project team.

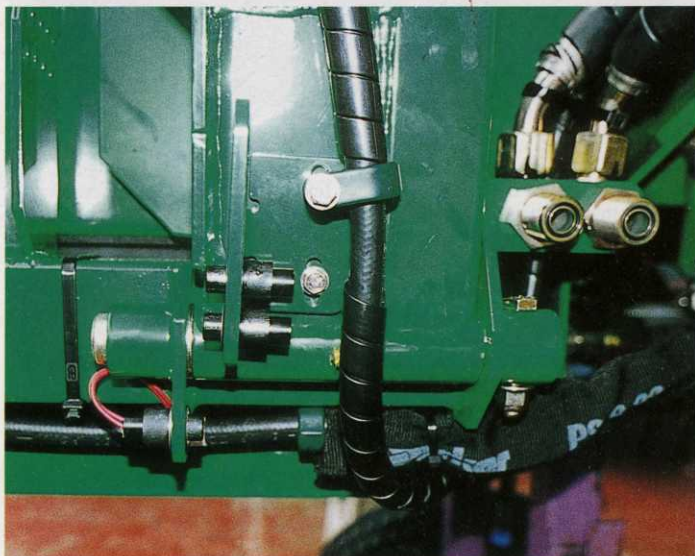
Before full production and product launch, all safety aspects relating to the use, maintenance and servicing of the machine have to be scripted in the accompanying technical literature. This gives the end user essential information on how to use and maintain the equipment including the operators handbook, parts and maintenance books, product service information, etc. In fact, everything that is required to ensure the safe use of the machine.

It is then time to launch the new product into the marketplace where the duties are handed over to the marketing department. Following the sale of the equipment the responsibility for safe operation transfers from the manufacturer to the purchaser and for readers this is the nub of this article. There has been stringent adherence to all the necessary guidelines, directives and legislation throughout the entire production process. The compilation of the operators handbook, service information

Right: New wheel lifts save technicians the task of lifting rim and tyre assemblies

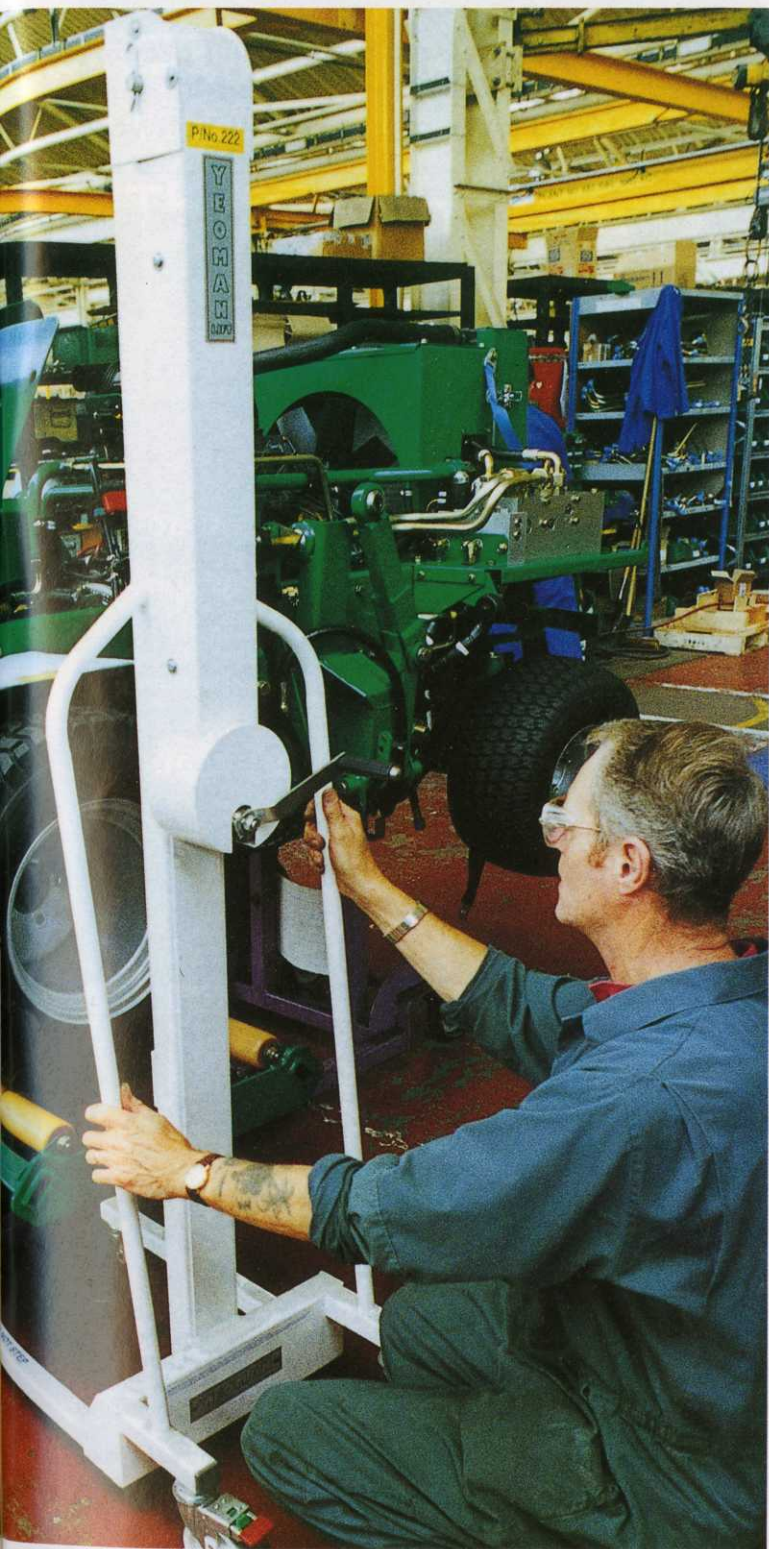


Below: Operator presence control (OPC) prevent cylinders turning when lifted from the cutting position, thanks to proximity switches



and other technical literature is an integral part of that process, therefore it is essential that end-users not only read the information, but fully understand how the equipment can be used to ensure that it is operated safely. Our nationwide dealer network and our training department at Ipswich offer training courses to ensure that operators are fully conversant with all health and safety matters related to the safe operation of our equipment.

With standards relating to safety of machinery ever changing and tightening it is essential that companies pre-empt future new standards or legislative amendments. Two safety aspects where the law is set to tight-



en further are noise and vibration. Currently the legislation on noise states that machinery has to comply with certain set bystander and operator noise levels aimed at protecting the operator and people in the vicinity. However, stricter regulations look set to reduce these maximum noise levels further along with tightening the frequency of noise testing. Unlike noise, the current requirement on vibration levels dictates only that these levels have to be stated in the operator manual. There are no upper or lower vibration limits with which equipment must comply, only recommendations for the length of time a person should use the equipment. Again this looks set to

change with tighter regulations governing vibration in the pipeline.

It is the pre-empting of this type of change that allows Textron Turf Care and Specialty Products to remain ahead in the market. We are already anticipating and working towards these changes by researching all aspects of the products to further reduce noise levels, ensuring that they will meet the proposed stricter standards and looking at improved product design that will reduce vibration levels thereby ensuring that we are on top of any changes here. Safety is the number one priority at Textron and is incorporated into all aspects of our business ensuring that our products have safety built into them every step of the way.

NEW TORO 'GT' PACKAGE* MAPS-OUT YOUR CLUB'S IRRIGATION SYSTEM - HOLE BY HOLE!

Developed to replace old Watermation TW and Toro SC controllers and make irrigation programming, operation and monitoring as simple as possible, the new Toro 'GT' Update Package provides on-screen map (or graphics) detailing every sprinkler on your course...



Now is the time to bring your existing irrigation control management system bang up to date. Consider the benefits offered by the new Toro 'GT' Update Package...

- FULL VISUAL DISPLAY ● DESK TOP CONTROL
- CONFIRMATION OF WATERING PROGRAMME
- MONITORS WATER CONSUMPTION
- MAP HIGHLIGHTS SPRINKLER MALFUNCTION
- COMPATIBLE WITH MOST EXISTING SYSTEMS
SAVING THE COST OF RECABLING

In addition to providing the latest, simplified desk-top control technology, the Toro 'GT' Update Package ('GT' stands for Gemini-Trident) enables you to exercise better flow management, the key to reducing water consumption. It also eliminates the risk of over-watering and ultimately, helps cut the cost of your club's water and electricity bills.

TALK TO HYDROSCAPE NOW!

**HYDRO
SCAPE**

The Hydroscape Group, Water House,
10 Carvers Industrial Estate,
Ringwood, Hampshire BH24 1JS.
Tel: 01425 476261/2 Fax: 01425 472380

*This offer of finance is for Private Members Golf Clubs and is subject to acceptance. Other low cost finance options also available. Please ask for details. Finance is arranged by UFB Groundscare Finance.

BIGGA's Education and Training Manager, Ken Richardson provides information on Continuing Professional Development and BIGGA's agreement to sell Epani's OnCourse course management software

EDUCATION UPDATE

BIGGA Mission Statement

"BIGGA is dedicated to the continuing professional development of its members and in serving their needs will strive through education and training for standards of excellence in golf course management throughout the greenkeeping profession".

BIGGA continues to support greenkeeper training, through its membership of the Greenkeepers Training Committee, by offering, amongst other things, training courses both in the Regions and at BIGGA House, by presenting Conferences, Workshops and Seminars and by running a lending library.

The Association does all of this to ensure that golf courses are maintained to the highest standards, to elevate the status of greenkeepers and to allow greenkeepers to be treated as true professionals.

Most professional associations have a system of continuing professional development and BIGGA is no exception.

BIGGA Continuing Professional Development

Thanks to contributors to the Education and Development Fund, BIGGA is encouraging the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) of greenkeepers by the introduction of its free CPD scheme for members.

British greenkeepers have a wide range of qualifications, linked to the National Standards, from N/SVQ Level 2 to first degree. Research has shown that Britain leads the way in education and training provision for greenkeepers and BIGGA has been influential in developing training that is job specific, so improving the status of the profession leading to enhanced pay and greater recognition of its members.

BIGGA has provided and continues to provide a range of education and training opportunities which support professional development. Other training providers also offer a wide range of courses which can be used as evidence of Continuing Professional Development.

The BIGGA CPD Scheme has several benefits to its members and their employers. It will encourage greenkeepers:

- To adapt out dated skills
- To keep in touch with changes in legislation
- To show employers that greenkeepers are true professionals
- To accumulate evidence towards further National Qualifications
- To give greenkeepers a means of showing current and prospective employers that they have continued their education and training beyond a minimum level
- To update skills and knowledge on a regular basis
- To promote greenkeeping as a profession
- To give greenkeepers the skills to cope with change

A BIGGA Certificate of Continuing Professional Development will be awarded to those BIGGA greenkeeper members who accumulate 10 CPD Credits annually from July to June.

BIGGA greenkeeper members who have been awarded five successive BIGGA Certificates of Continuing Professional Development will receive a BIGGA Diploma of Continuing Professional Development.

The scheme runs as follows:

1. Greenkeepers must be members of BIGGA
2. A minimum formal qualification of N/SVQ Level 2 (or equivalent) is required to enter the scheme
3. The scheme runs each calendar year from 1 July to 30 June
4. Courses, seminars, workshops and training days are awarded CPD Credits
5. Each greenkeeper must accumulate 10 Credits per year to reach the standard

6. All those reaching 10 Credits in a calendar year are awarded a Certificate
7. If an individual achieves the requirement for five consecutive years they receive a diploma
8. All training must be related to National Standards

The types of training that attract CPD credits are:

- * BTME Seminars
- * The National Education Conference or Workshops
- * Regional Courses
- * BIGGA HOUSE Courses
- * Short Courses (eg. tractor driving, chain saw, first aid, D32/33)
- * Approved industry courses and workshops

All BIGGA members can apply to join the CPD scheme, simply by contacting Ken or Sami at BIGGA House and by proving they are qualified to N/SVQ Level 2 or equivalent.

Each applicant will be entered into the CPD database and will be issued with their own personal record of continuation training.

All courses, seminars, workshops and conferences promoted from BIGGA House will be eligible for the award of CPD points.

All other training providers may apply for their courses, seminars, workshops and conferences to be approved by applying to BIGGA House.

Members can then ask for credits to be awarded by providing a certificate of attendance to BIGGA House.

Credits will be entered into the CPD data base and certificates will be awarded when members reach at least 10 Credits.

A full list of education and training opportunities provided by BIGGA is enclosed with this magazine, in a booklet entitled Continuing Professional Development. If you have not received your copy or need further copies then contact BIGGA House.

Epani Golf Course Management Software

Following a period of intensive development by Epani and BIGGA, OnCourse™ version 2.1 is now ready for delivery. Several golf clubs have 'taken the plunge' and bought their copy of this exciting management package. Designed by greenkeepers for greenkeepers, it makes the job of managing staff, machinery, time and the golf course less time consuming and allows you to print out professional reports.

Easy to use for anyone with a basic knowledge of computers, it needs a computer with a Pentium processor, Windows 95 or 98 or Windows NT. At least 16 Mb of RAM and 15 Mb Hard Drive space. A CD ROM drive is needed for installation of software and you need an SVGA screen.



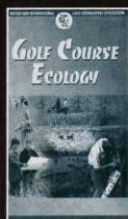
OnCourse™
 THE GOLF COURSE MANAGERS SOURCE OF ADMINISTRATIVE POWER!

The software package which includes full documentation, handbook, one year telephone support and one year of updates costs £800 plus VAT. Installation and training can be provided at £150 plus VAT.

Bring your course into the 21st century by purchasing OnCourse™ 2.1.

Order forms and demonstration disks are available from Ken or Sami.

ON COURSE WITH BIGGA EDUCATION



Golf Course Preparation Video
 £14.95 to BIGGA members
 £29.95 to non-members

Golf Course Reconstruction Video
 £14.95 to BIGGA members
 £29.95 to non-members

Ecology Book
 £3.00 to BIGGA members
 £7.00 to non-members

Ecology Video
 £14.95 to BIGGA members
 £29.95 to non-members

Raising the Standards of Mowing Management Video
 £14.95 to BIGGA members
 £29.95 to non-members

Setting the Standard in Spraying Application Video
 £14.95 to BIGGA members
 £29.95 to non-members



The Greenkeepers Choice...

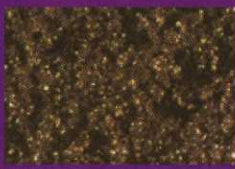


Top Dressings

- Combining technology and quality.
- All dressings are heat treated and mixed to specific requirements.

Rootzones

- The perfect foundation for optimum growth.
- Quality is assured through on-site laboratory testing.



**800 TONNES AVAILABLE DAILY
DELIVERY WITHIN 24 HOURS**

BATHGATE SILICA SANDS LTD
Arclid Quarry, Congleton Road, Sandbach, Cheshire, CW11 4SN
Tel: 01270 762828, Fax: 01270 760557



WEED FREE[®]

- Advice • Application • Supply • Training

DRIFT FREE Contract Spraying
utilising our purpose built machine

The SPRAYING MANTIS

Freephone: 0800 068 08 78

Fax: 07000 481022

Car: 0850 300104

Unit 14, Roundshead Drive, Warfield, Berkshire RG42 3RZ
WEED FREE is a Registered Trade Mark

*From September 2000, things are **changing...***



...for the better.

In June, Tracey Maddison, BIGGA's Membership Services Officer, welcomed almost 120 new members to the Association as BIGGA celebrated a total membership of over 7,000 members

BIGGA welcomes...

Congratulations!

Your Association now has a total membership of over 7,000 members. On behalf of the Association I would like to congratulate Kevin Dinsdale of Northumberland Golf Club for being the 7,000th member. Kevin wins a whole host of goodies as well as his Head Greenkeeper, who referred him for membership, also winning educational videos.

Well done to all of you who are referring your colleagues and fellow greenkeepers for membership and introducing them to the valuable benefits, which I hope you are all taking advantage of. Don't forget if you introduce 2 or more new members to the Association, your name will be placed into a draw to win one of three fabulous prizes. Keep up the good work!

Courtesy Golf

BIGGA is sadly aware that a minority of members (and in some cases non members) have been abusing the system of courtesy golf offered by many golf clubs to greenkeeper members. This has led to a number of clubs now refusing to offer courtesy to any BIGGA member or, indeed, to Sections looking for host clubs for their golfing days. This is, obviously, of great concern to BIGGA. Once again, it would appear to be a situation of

small minority spoiling a wonderful opportunity for the majority.

BIGGA has already changed a number of its procedures to try and prevent people who are not eligible to join from obtaining membership. All greenkeeper members are now required to have their form authorised by their golf club and the membership card itself is currently under review.

In order to minimise abuse as far as is possible at the present time and as a reminder to members, BIGGA has issued the following guidelines:

Members wishing to seek courtesy golf at a club should contact the club at least 24 hours in advance of wishing to play.

On arrival at the club, members should report to the Secretary/Pro Shop and follow normal procedures for playing golf.

Members should produce a valid membership card as proof of status to the club.

Members should make a point of thanking the club for their courtesy on completion of their round of golf.

Members should not seek courtesy golf at any one golf club more than twice per year.

Courtesy golf is always given at the discretion of the individual golf club

Scottish Region

Russell G Aird, West
 Cameron Anderson, East
 Steven Boyle, West
 Gerry Carney, West
 Wayne Ford, East
 John Forrest, Central
 Scott Fraser, West
 Michael C Grant, N
 Richard Hastings, Central
 Mark Lindsay, West
 John Marshall, Ayrshire
 Barry J McDonald, N
 Michael McLeod, N
 Scott N McTaggart, N
 Daniel Murray, East
 Garry Norrie, N
 Alastair J Patterson, East
 Garry Porter, West
 Andrew Reading, Ayrshire
 Kevin Smith, N
 James Swanson, N
 Paul Todd, West

Midland Region

Dean Akeman, E of England
 Mark Barber, E Midland
 Jason Birch, E Midland
 Andrew Blunt, E Midland
 Dean Cooper, E Midland
 Andrew J A Davis, BB&O
 Simon Douglas, BB&O
 Chris R Fellows, Midland
 Anthony Hand, Midland
 Paul Harper, Midland
 Simon Lee, Midland
 Chris Lewis, E Midland
 Chris Marshall, Midland
 Lee E Marston, Midland
 Nigel Morris, Midland
 Philip Pounds, BB&O
 Leigh Powell, BB&O
 James Robinson, E Midland

Northern Region

Phillip Ainscough, N West
 Robert J Boyle, Northern
 Shaun Carroll, Cleveland
 Stuart Chivers, N West
 David Cook, Cleveland

South East Region

James Boyle, Surrey
 Vincent D G Bridges, Sussex
 Steven J Bridges, Surrey
 Ronald Cooper, London
 Andrew D Derrins, Surrey
 Paul R Fenaley, East Anglia
 Zach Georgiou, London
 Warren Grant, Sussex
 Rick Kennell, Surrey
 Scott Littfield, Sussex
 Dan McGrath, Kent
 Steve D Scott, Surrey
 Keith Skinner, Surrey
 Daniel Stone, Sussex
 John T Thompson, Kent
 Simon R P Tipples, Sussex
 Geoffrey Woodcock, Surrey
 Matthew J Wright, Surrey

S West & S Wales

Ian S Cheryny, Dev & C'wall
 Ray E Cousins, S Coast
 Michael T Dee, S Wales
 Stephen T Finley, S Coast
 Kevin Frampton, S Coast
 Ian M Hatch, S Coast
 Roger J Head, S Wales
 Ceri Llewellyn, S Wales
 Trevor Mor, S West
 James W Morgans, S Wales
 Jason Morgans, S Wales
 Norman A Oran, S Coast
 Peter F Plosscourt, S West
 Jonathan Sacras, S Coast
 Stephen A Southern, S Coast
 Darrell R Thomas, S Wales
 Darren J Venables, S Coast
 John Walkwork, S Coast

Northern Ireland

Alastair J Irvine
 Adrian McStraw

Republic of Ireland

Ian Hunter
 Aidan O'Hara CGCS

International Members

Bent Moeller, Denmark
 Thomas S O Connor, USA
 Ian Bruton, Far East
 Mark C Smith, Far East

Associate Members

Gordon McMurdo, West
 John Eckerston, N West
 Caroline Malone, N East
 James S Bennett, BB&O
 Darren Greenacre, Sussex
 Roger J Nicholson, E Anglia
 James Russell, Surrey
 Neil Young, Kent

Student Members

David N Goldie, Central
 Rowan Kerr, Ayrshire
 William N Bates, E Midland

Check out
 September's
 edition for July's
 new members!

and is not an automatic benefit of membership.

All suspected abuses of the card should be reported in writing to BIGGA. All such complaints will be investigated, initially, by the members' Section. Members found guilty of abuse of the card will be disciplined under Paragraph 15 of the Association's Constitution and Rules: "If any Member shall be guilty of conduct likely ... to injure or discredit the character or interests of the Association ... the Section Committee shall have power ... to reprimand, suspend or expel the member."

Clubs also have the right to refuse golf to any member not following the above recommendations. Golf clubs wishing to verify membership or requiring further details should contact BIGGA on 01347 833800.

It is BIGGA's hope that the majority of members who seek courtesy golf only occasionally and follow the above procedure can work together with golf clubs and BIGGA to ensure that courtesy golf does not become a privilege afforded to only the few.

Courtesy golf requires courtesy on everyone's part, including the member.

Online Education

BIGGA has provided and continues to provide a range of education and training opportunities which support professional development. The new BIGGA Web site (www.bigga.org.uk) includes an Education and Development Area to keep you updated on the latest information. Continuing Professional Development (CPD), is a scheme which allows BIGGA Greenkeeper Members to record credits for education and training. The Web site Education and Development Area allows you to seek all the details you require to enable you to register for this scheme. Details are now available on the Web site for BIGGA House Greenkeeper Training Courses and the 2000/2001 Regional Training Programme. Places are selling fast so check out our available courses at www.bigga.org.uk. The Learning Experience 2001 is currently being prepared. Updates on the Programme and Speakers can be viewed allowing you to start planning your trip to The Learning Experience and BTME 2001. Other points of interest included in Education and Development Area are: The Toro Awards, The BIGGA Golf Environment Competition and the BIGGA Essay Competition. Job Specifications, Careers Information, Master Greenkeeper Certificate, BIGGA publications including books, videos and field guides and the BIGGA Book and Slide Library. Remember, there is plenty to look at on the BIGGA Web site, so log on and Surf our Site.

BOOKMARK THIS LINK BOOKMARK THIS LINK BOOKMARK THIS LINK
www.bigga.org.uk/edudev.html

Navigation: Back, Forward, Reload, Home, Search, Netscape, Images, Print, Security, Shop, Help

Location: <http://www.bigga.org.uk/edudev.html>

The British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association
 The UK professional body representing over 7000 Golf Greenkeepers worldwide

BIGGA House Supervisory and Management Courses 2000

Education and Training courses specifically tailored for you

News for 2000, three courses are designed to meet the needs of all greenkeepers and thanks to contributions to the BIGGA Education and Development Fund we have managed to keep costs down. To give maximum flexibility, each four day course comprises two 2 day modules. You can choose to attend individual modules to suit your requirements. You can also save the residential or non residential package. The choice is yours. All modules can be used to provide evidence of understanding knowledge requirements of the NSQV as shown. You do not necessarily have to be following an NSQV programme of the Levels shown to gain benefit from these courses. Essential Computing for Greenkeepers provides evidence for the European Computer Driving License. Additionally, on-site will also be awarded towards Continuing Professional Development and Master Greenkeeper Certificate.

State-of-the-art training facilities

BIGGA's superb built training facility within BIGGA HOUSE, was funded in part by the Royal and Ancient Golf Club, via Education and Development Fund and other generous Major Club and Sponsor members. This training facility is equipped with the very latest in audio-visual technology. Courses are presented in a professional and stimulating atmosphere.

The British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association
 The UK professional body representing over 7000 Golf Greenkeepers worldwide

Education & Development

Learning Experience 2001 and 2002 Dates, Reservations
 BIGGA House Supervisory and Management Courses 2000
 Personal and Professional Development
 The Toro Awards
 The BIGGA Golf Environment Competition
 The BIGGA Essay Competition 2001
 The Learning Experience, Speakers
 The Master Greenkeeper Certificate
 National Job Specifications & Salary Data
 Job Vacancies
 Association and Development Fund

Master Greenkeeper Certificate Scheme

The Master Greenkeeper Certificate Scheme
 The Master Greenkeeper Certificate Scheme has been running since 1981 and awards the MGC. It is the highest qualification in the profession and is recognised by the Royal and Ancient Golf Club, the RGA, the PGA, the RSCG, the RGS, the RGS of Scotland, the RGS of Wales, the RGS of Northern Ireland and the RGS of the Republic of Ireland.

Education & Development
 Learning Experience 2001
 Learning Experience 2002
 The Toro Awards
 The BIGGA Golf Environment Competition
 The BIGGA Essay Competition
 The Learning Experience, Speakers
 The Master Greenkeeper Certificate
 National Job Specifications & Salary Data
 Job Vacancies
 Association and Development Fund