

HOW TO ENTER

On arrival to the BTME & ClubHouse exhibition, you will be handed a BIGGA goody bag. In this will be your scorecard for the 18-hole competition.

Listed on this card are names of various companies and their stand numbers. Simply visit these stands to get the card stamped.

Once you have had all 18 holes stamped, fill in all your details and post in one of the entry boxes. Boxes will be placed on the BIGGA stand and at various exit points.

The winner will be selected at random and announced in the February issue of Greenkeeper International.

Make sure you enter and have the chance of winning the holiday of a lifetime.

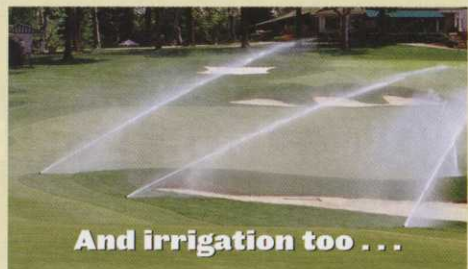
Please note:

- Winner is to choose the dates of travel and BIGGA will arrange subject to availability.
- Holiday must be booked at least six weeks prior to departure date.
- Prize is valid from 1st February 2004 to 15th December 2004. Holiday must be taken within this time or forfeit.
- Flights depart from either Gatwick or Manchester.
- Rainy season in Barbados: End May to September.
- Recommended time to go: February to April or October to December. (These dates are recommendations only).
- All Thomson holiday terms and conditions to be issued to winner on presentation of prize.
- Prize cannot be exchanged for money.
- In the event of a cancellation on the winner's behalf, any money refunds will be paid to BIGGA.
- In the event of uncontrollable cancellation on Thomson's behalf (e.g. Hurricane), an alternative will be arranged for the winner by BIGGA.



Reelmaster 3100-D Sidewinder

An innovative trim mower with the Sidewinder cutting system of reels which move from side to side for superior trimming right up to the edge.



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Toro offers a complete range of innovative, high quality irrigation products and systems, including upgrade controllers, to help grow and maintain the best turf.

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20-22 JANUARY 2004
HARROGATE, ENGLAND

Decision makers visit BTME & ClubHouse

Exhibition

Education

Entertainment

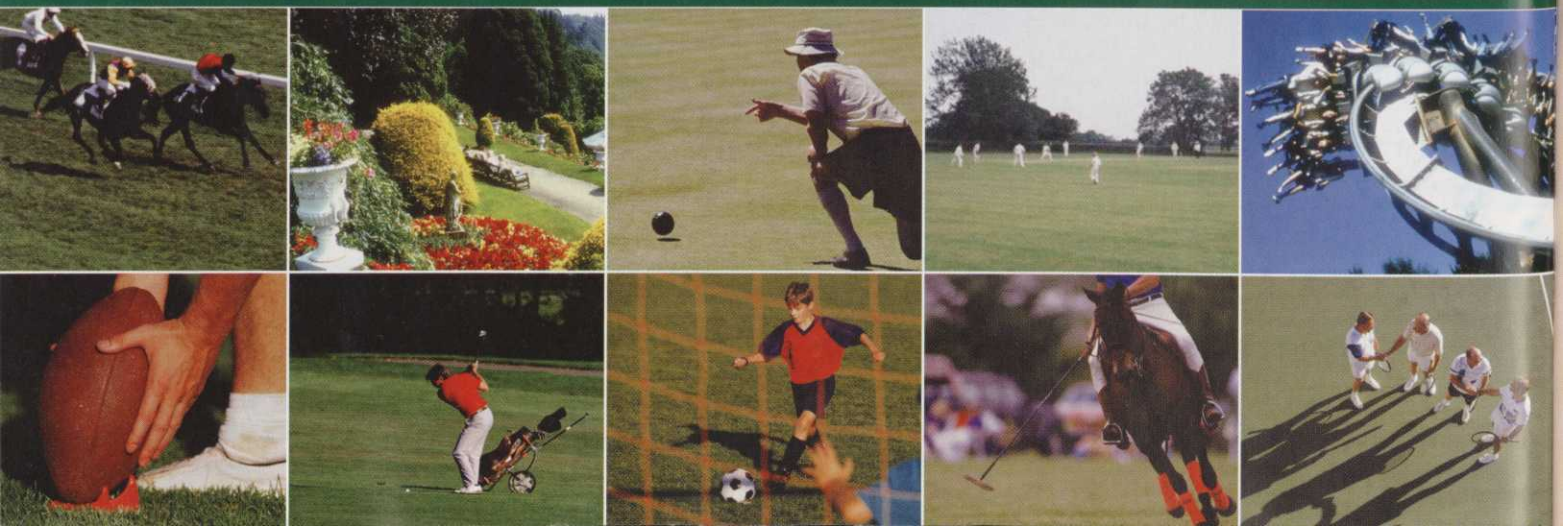
- 250 Exhibitors - See it, feel it, try it - BUY IT!
- National Education Conference
- Workshops and Seminars
- Education dinner with speaker
- Banquet with Bootleg ABBA

FOR EDUCATION CALL SAMI Tel: 01347 833833 Email: sami@bigga.co.uk

TO EXHIBIT CALL PAULINE Tel: 01347 833830 Email: pauline@bigga.co.uk

www.bigga.org.uk

KNOWLEDGE IS THE KEY TO FUTURE SUCCESS



Learning

Education & Training for Professional Greenkeepers

As a member of the Greenkeepers Training Committee, BIGGA is actively involved in raising the Standard of Greenkeeper Training. The range and quality of training now available means that there is a training course for every greenkeeper which should improve the quality of greenkeeping and help to produce better quality golf courses.



Golf Course Managers should ensure that their staff are trained to the highest standards, beginning by selecting a training provider that meets the criteria laid down by the GTC.

There is a clear link between education, training and economic success and if you think that training is expensive then try ignorance.

Ken Richardson
Education and Training Manager,
British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association
Tel: 01347 833800
Email: education@bigga.co.uk
Website: www.bigga.org.uk

The Greenkeepers Training Committee (GTC) is continually striving to raise the standards of Golf Course Maintenance and Management and they are totally committed to ensuring that the range of qualifications are relevant to the Sportsturf sector and used by employers for recruitment and by trainees for their own personal development.



The Government endorsed awards range from National/Scottish Vocational Qualifications (N/SVQ's) to the more academic Higher National Certificate (HNC)/National Diploma (ND)/Higher National Diploma (HND) in Golf Course Management and the Degree in Sportsturf Science.

The qualifications are continually under review by the Lantra Sector Skills Council (SSC) in association with the GTC. The quality of the delivery of these awards by the network of GTC Approved Training Providers is also constantly monitored by the GTC.

For up to date independent advice on qualifications, education and training courses contact the GTC on: Tel: 01347 838640
Email: golf@the-gtc.co.uk
Website: www.the-gtc.co.uk



Education & Training - The Key to Professionalism

BIGGA has shown its commitment to Greenkeeper Education and Training by investing heavily in Conferences, Seminars and Training Courses. Companies and individuals can show their commitment by contributing to the BIGGA Education and Development Fund through the BIGGA Golden and Silver Key Membership scheme.

This ring fenced fund supports a range of training resources such as Regional Training Courses, Education Conferences, Workshops, Training Vouchers, a Lending Library, Videos, Careers Advice, Books, Booklets, Educational Posters and Field Guides.

The BIGGA Education and Development Fund gives companies, groups and individuals the opportunity to show their commitment to the greenkeeping industry by making donations, gifts and bequests which will improve the skills and knowledge of greenkeepers, enhance the status of greenkeeping and ensure the highest standards of golf course maintenance.

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

For further details on BIGGA Golden and Silver Key Membership please contact the Executive Director on 01347 833800.



GREENKEEPER TRAINING

abingdon:witney college

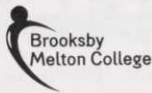
ABINGDON AND WITNEY COLLEGE Warren Farm Campus, Horton-cum-Studley, Oxford OX33 1BY **Contact:** Alan Brown or John Revis **Tel:** 01865 351794 **Fax:** 01865 358931 **Email:** john.revis@abingdon-witney.ac.uk **Web:** www.abingdon-witney.ac.uk **Information:** Warren Farm Campus is the base for Abingdon and Witney College's education and training in Greenkeeping, Sportsturf, Amenity horticulture and allied land based courses for the whole of Oxfordshire. Courses include:- NVQ Levels 2 & 3 in Sportsturf, Landscaping and Nursery. We also offer a range of short courses for the Industry including Health & Safety, pesticide training and chainsaw operation. For more information contact either Alan Brown or John Revis on Tel: 01865 351794 or Fax: 01865 358931.

ASKHAM BRYAN COLLEGE

ASKHAM BRYAN COLLEGE Askham Bryan, York, North Yorkshire, YO23 3FR **Contact:** Central Admissions **Tel:** 01904 772211 **Fax:** 01904 772288 **Email:** sf@askham-bryan.ac.uk **Web:** www.askham-bryan.ac.uk **Information:** National Certificate in Horticulture, National Diploma in Horticulture (Turf Option), Higher National Certificate in Horticulture (Golf Course Management); part-time study, Higher National Diploma in Horticulture (Golf Management Option) all available full or part time. Block release courses: NVQ Level 2 Greenkeeping, NVQ Level 3 Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Maintenance, NVQ Level 4 Amenity Horticulture. Short courses: FEPA spraying, chainsaw and brushcutter courses.



BERKSHIRE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE Hall Place, Burchetts Green, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 6QR **Contact:** Andy Williams **Tel:** 01628 824444 **Fax:** 01628 824695 **Email:** enquiries@bca.ac.uk **Web:** www.bca.ac.uk **Information:** Located in the Thames Valley, BCA has excellent resources for horticultural based training including a six-hole golf training facility opened by HRH The Duke of York. Programmes include the First Diploma, National Certificate and National Diploma in Horticulture, with Landscape Design and Greenkeeping options plus Higher National Diploma/Certificate programmes. Part-time programmes include NVQ Level 2 and 3 Amenity Horticulture, Sports Turf. Residential accommodation is available.



BROOKSBY MELTON COLLEGE Brooksby, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire, LE14 2LJ **Contact:** Jo Lees **Tel:** 01664 850850 **Fax:** 01664 855355 **Email:** course.enquiries@brooksbymelton.ac.uk **Web:** www.brooksbymelton.ac.uk **Information:** Situated on the A607 between Leicester and Melton Mowbray. Programmes available include NVQ Levels 2, 3 & 4 in Greenkeeping. Work based emphasis for all of these programmes. Short courses available in Arboriculture/Chainsaw work, TDLB training and Pesticide application training. Amenity Horticulture NVQ Levels 2, 3 & 4.

Cannington College
COLLEGE OF THE COUNTRYSIDE

CANNINGTON COLLEGE Cannington, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA5 2LS **Contact:** Enquiries and Enrolment **Tel:** 01278 655123 **Fax:** 01278 655055 **Email:** enquiries@cannington.ac.uk **Web:** www.cannington.ac.uk **Information:** Cannington College is recognised as a Centre of Vocational Excellence for greenkeeping and sports turf science. Its resources include a nine hole, 18 tee golf course, fully automated driving range Golf Club within the college grounds. Courses: City & Guilds National Certificate in Horticulture (sports turf management), BTEC National Diploma in Horticulture (sports turf), BTEC National Diploma in Sport & Exercise Sciences (golf), Certificate of Higher Education in Golf Course Management, Foundation Degree in Golf Course Management, Foundation Degree in Turfgrass Science and Technology, NVQ Level 2 in Amenity Horticulture (sports turf option), NVQ Level 3 in Amenity Horticulture (sports turf option), British Turf and Landscape Irrigation Association (1 week course), FEPA Training, Chainsaw Certification, Off-Road Vehicle Certification. Note: Certificate of Higher Education & Foundation Degrees available as part time options.



EAST DURHAM AND HOUGHALL COMMUNITY COLLEGE Houghall, Durham, DH1 3SG **Contact:** Ian Lacy **Tel:** 0191 386 1351 **Fax:** 0191 386 0419 **Email:** enquiry@edhcc.ac.uk **Web:** www.edhcc.ac.uk **Information:** Full-time courses: National Certificate in Horticulture/Greenkeeping and Groundsmanship - 1 year. Part time courses: Greenkeeping and Sportsturf maintenance NVQ Level 2 - Day Release. NVQ Level 3/4 Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Maintenance Day Release. Short courses: FEPA Modules, Chainsaw certification, Tree inspection, Horticultural Machinery, Safe Lifting and First Aid.



HADLOW COLLEGE Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent, TN11 0AL **Contact:** Norman Croasdale **Tel:** 01732 853241 **Fax:** 01732 853207 **Email:** sally-flanagan@hadlowcollege.ac.uk **Web:** www.hadlow.ac.uk **Information:** National award and National Diploma in Horticulture. NVQ Level 1 Horticulture, NVQ Level 2 & 3 in Amenity Horticulture in Hard Landscaping, Sports Turf and Production Horticulture.



HARTPURY COLLEGE Hartpury House, Gloucester, Gloucestershire, GL19 3BE **Contact:** Rosalind Camp **Tel:** 01452 702132 **Fax:** 01452 700629 **Email:** enquire@hartpury.ac.uk **Web:** www.hartpury.ac.uk **Information:** Courses available: College Certificate Greenkeeping, First Diploma Amenity & Landscape Horticulture, National Award Amenity & Landscape Horticulture, National Award Greenkeeping & Groundsmanship, National Certificate Amenity & Landscape Horticulture, National Certificate Greenkeeping & Groundsmanship, National Diploma Amenity & Landscape Horticulture, National Diploma Sport (Performance and Excellence)(Golf Studies). Work Based Training NVQ's, RHS examinations City & Guilds, TDLB Assessor Awards as well as a full range of amateur, leisure and day release courses.



MERRIST WOOD CAMPUS OF GUILDFORD COLLEGE Worplesdon, Guildford, Surrey, GU3 3PE **Contact:** Joe Paulin **Tel:** 01483 884088 **Fax:** 01483 884001 **Email:** jpaulin@merristwood.ac.uk **Web:** www.guildford.ac.uk **Information:** Part-time courses: NVQ Level 2 Sportsturf college day release and workplace visits/assessments at Merrist Wood and at Crawley. Level 2 Edexcel first Diploma college day release, also full-time for those without qualified workplace assessors, NVQ Level 3 Sportsturf college day release and workplace visits/assessments, Level 3 Edexcel National Award college day release for those without qualified workplace assessors, Edexcel HNC Turfgrass Science and Management college day release over 2 years plus various short courses throughout the year. Edexcel HND Turfgrass Science and Management college day release. Please contact us for up-to-date listings, qualifications and advice. Career Evenings held monthly at the college.



MYERSCOUGH COLLEGE Bilbottle, Preston, Lancashire, PR3 0RY **Contact:** Colin Stanfield **Tel:** 01995 642222/642305 **Fax:** 01995 642333 **Email:** mailbox@myerscough.ac.uk **Web:** www.myerscough.ac.uk **Information:** Full time courses; BSc (Hon's) Turfgrass Science, Foundation Degree Sportsturf Science - online option by distance learning, ND Turf Science & Sportsground Maintenance; National Certificate in Groundsmanship and Greenkeeping, also Sports Turf Mechanisation option: First Diploma in Greenkeeping; Turf Science: NVQ 2, 3 & 4 Greenkeeping Management delivered both in the work place and over the internet using the colleges 'Mollnet System'. Part-time courses NVQ Level 2 & 3 Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Maintenance (Day/block release or Fast track work-based training qualification). All higher education courses can be accessed on a part time basis. HNC Turf Science: FEPA Short courses. NPCT Certificates of competence in the safe use of mowers and turfcare equipment. Careers mornings monthly on Saturdays.



NESCOT - NORTH EAST SURREY COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY Reigate Road, Ewell, Epsom, Surrey, KT17 3DS **Contact:** Mr Colin S Smith **Tel:** 020 8394 3220 **Email:** info@nescot.ac.uk **Web:** www.nescot.ac.uk **Information:** NVQ Levels I, II and III in Amenity Horticulture (Greenkeeping options). Part time Day Release. Duration: Two years to Level II. FEPA Spraying Courses. Also available - RHS General and Advanced Certificates in Horticulture. RHS Diploma in Horticulture.



OAKLANDS COLLEGE St Albans Smallford Campus, Hatfield Road, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL4 0JA **Contact:** Helpline **Tel:** 01727 737080 **Fax:** 01727 737752 **Email:** help.line@oaklands.ac.uk **Web:** www.oaklands.ac.uk **Information:** Full time courses: National Certificate in Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Management. Part-time courses: leading to NVQ Level 2 & 3 Greenkeeping, Modern Apprenticeships. Evening Courses: leading to NVQ Level 4. Short Courses: Pesticide, Chainsaw.



PLUMPTON COLLEGE Ditchling Road, Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 3AE **Contact:** David Blackmur **Tel:** 01273 890454 **Fax:** 01273 890071 **Email:** enquiries@plumpton.ac.uk **Web:** www.plumpton.ac.uk **Information:** HNC (Sportsturf, subject to validation) National Diploma in Amenity Horticulture, National Award (Garden Design), First Diploma in Horticulture. Part time courses: NVQ Level 1; NVQ Level 2 in Amenity and Sportsturf; NVQ Level 3 Landscaping and Sportsturf; NVQ Level 4. Also available are RHS General and RHS Advanced; IOG National Technical and Intermediate National Diploma. Short courses are also available for FEPA spraying and chainsaw.



REASEHEATH COLLEGE Nantwich, Cheshire, CW5 6DF **Contact:** Chard Spicer **Tel:** 01270 613236 **Fax:** 01270 625665 **Email:** chards@reaseheath.ac.uk **Web:** www.reaseheath.ac.uk **Information:** (Full time) National Diploma in Amenity Horticulture, Greenkeeping & Sports Turf (part time) NVQ Levels 2/3 in Amenity Horticulture; Sportsturf; HNC in Golf Course Management. Flexible learning options. Short courses: FEPA, Chemical Safety, Safe Lifting, Chainsaws, Off-road Vehicle Driving, First Aid, NPCT Certificate of Competence.

Training providers guide

Available courses guide

This guide is not exhaustive and a full list of GTC approved training providers can be obtained from the GTC. The Greenkeepers Training Committee (GTC) are continually reviewing the approved status of training providers offering greenkeeper training courses. Anyone with a query regarding greenkeeper training should contact the Greenkeeper Training Committee at Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF, Tel: 01347 838640 or visit their website at <http://www.the-gtc.co.uk>

ENGLAND



SPARSHOLT COLLEGE HAMPSHIRE Sparsholt, Winchester, Hampshire, SO21 2NF **Contact:** Ray Broughton **Tel:** 01962 776441 **Fax:** 01962 776587
Email: rbroughton@sparsholt.ac.uk **Web:** www.sparsholt.ac.uk **Information:** NVQ Level 2 Greenkeeping Practice, NVQ Level 3 Greenkeeping Supervision, City & Guilds Phase IV Management Studies, National Diplomas in Golf Course Management and Golf Studies, National Certificate in Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Management. GTC: Greenkeeping Certificate, GTC: Certificate in Golf Course Supervision, FEPA: Short courses, Chainsaws. Phase IV and NVQ Level 2 are offered on block release and day release. Full residential facilities available. Sparsholt College provides education and training in the land-based industries.



THE COLLEGE OF WEST ANGLIA Milton Campus **Contact:** Bob Young **Tel:** 01223 860701 **Email:** enquires@col-westanglia.ac.uk
Information: The College of West Anglia offers a full range of courses for Greenkeepers including; NVQ Level 2 Sportsturf (Greenkeeping and Groundsmanship), NVQ Level 3 Sports Turf Maintenance. GTC Craft Certificate, GTC Certificate in Golf Course Supervision, TDLB Assessors awards. FEPA, Chain Saws, MO1. Other Courses: National and First Diploma in Horticulture and Garden Design.



WARWICKSHIRE COLLEGE Royal Leamington Spa & Moreton Morrell, Moreton Morrell, Warwick, Warwickshire, CV35 9BL **Contact:** Andrew Turnbull **Tel:** 01926 318258
Fax: 01926 318300 **Email:** enquiries@warkscol.ac.uk **Web:** www.warkscol.ac.uk **Information:** Greenkeeping Courses: HNC Sports Turf & Golf Course Management (Day Release 2 year Programme also distance learning option); NVQ Level 2 & 3 Day Release and Workbased Option (we come to you); two year ND in Horticulture with Turf Option; BTLIA Certificate in Turf Irrigation. Short Courses: Computing for the Greenkeeper - various times throughout the year - ring for details. FEPA; Spraying Certification, Chainsaw Certification; TDLB; First Aid. Also RHS General and Diploma, PA1, PA2A and PA6. Professional Certificate/Diploma in Greenkeeping. Advanced National Certificate in Sports Turf Management - 2 year day release.



WRITTELE COLLEGE Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 3RR **Contact:** Registry **Tel:** 01245 424200 **Fax:** 01245 420456 **Email:** info@writtle.ac.uk **Web:** www.writtle.ac.uk
Information: SPORTS TURF PROGRAMMES NVQ Level 2 - Sports Turf, NVQ Level 3 - Sports Turf Maintenance. NVQ Levels 2 & 3 - Amenity Horticulture. HNC - SportsTurf Science. HND Sports Turf and Golf Course Management. Other Programmes National Certificate, National Diploma (with Sports Turf Option), BSc (Hons) Sports Turf Science and Management. BSc (Hons) Horticulture, BSc (Hons) Landscape and Amenity Management. MSc Landscape and Amenity Management. NVQ 2 and 3 Service Engineering, First Diploma Agriculture (Mechanisation), C & G Agricultural Mechanics Certificate. FEPA. Chainsaw. Tractor Driving.

NORTHERN IRELAND



GREENMOUNT COLLEGE Antrim, County Antrim, Northern Ireland BT41 4PU **Contact:** Paul Campbell **Tel:** 028 9442 6870 **Email:** paul.campbell@dardni.gov.uk
Web: www.greenmount.ac.uk **Information:** Day release courses to (a) NVQ Level II Greenkeeping & Sportsturf, (b) NVQ Level III Golf Course Supervision, (c) Advanced National Certificate in Horticulture (sportsturf), (d) Higher National Diploma turf options, (e) FEPE, Health & Safety and a range of short courses.

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND



TEAGASC COLLEGE College of Amenity Horticulture, National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, Dublin, DUBLIN 9, Republic of Ireland
Contact: Pat Suttle **Tel:** 00353 18460644 **Fax:** 00353 18460524 **Email:** psuttle@kinsealy.teagasc.ie **Web:** www.teagasc.ie
Information: Courses offered: Level 3 Certificate in Greenkeeping. Level 3 Certificate in Golf Course Management. National Diploma in Horticulture (Greenkeeping Major offered)

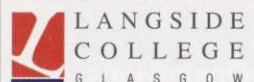
SCOTLAND



ELMWOOD COLLEGE Cupar, Fife, KY15 4JB **Contact:** Ann Bain **Tel:** 01334 658842 **Fax:** 01334 658888 **Email:** abain@elmwood.ac.uk **Web:** www.elmwood.ac.uk
Information: Full time National Certificate Greenkeeping: Block Release SVQ Level II, SVQ Level III Sportsturf block release and Outreach available, and SVQ Level IV, HNC/D Golf Course Management available as full-time, block release and distance learning. HNC Golf Facility Management, HND Golf Facility Management, PDA for football and cricket available both block release and Outreach. FEPA and COSHH, chainsaws, tree climbing and rescue techniques and Health and Safety short courses also available.



GOSTA TRAINING LTD 50 Brook Street, Glasgow, G40 2AB **Contact:** Chris Bothwell **Tel:** 0141 556 3999 **Fax:** 0141 556 4999
Email: learn@gostatraining.co.uk **Information:** SVQ II, III and IV also Modern Apprenticeship in Sportsturf including other options and GTC Training Manual. Attendance Day/Block release from November - March. Distance Learning also available. Short courses with certification include Pesticides, Chainsaw, First Aid, Risk Assessment, Abrasive Wheels, Full Range of Machinery Courses, Manual Handling and Fire Extinguisher training. Consultancy service for Health and Safety Policy development, Site Risk Audits, Machinery Permit to Use system, COSHH and Noise Assessment.

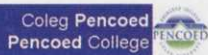


LANGSIDE COLLEGE Rutherglen Campus, Buchanan Drive, Rutherglen, Glasgow, G73 3PF **Contact:** Colin S Urquhart **Tel:** 0141 647 6300 **Email:** curquhart@langside.ac.uk
Information: SVQ, SGA, HNC, HND. Full time and part-time courses in Greenkeeping, Groundsmanship, Golf Course Management, Horticulture, Land and Environment and Applied Ecology. Short courses for land-based industries including Risk Assessment and Pesticides.



OATRIDGE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE Ecclesmachan, By Broxburn, West Lothian, Edinburgh, EH52 6NH **Contact:** Steve Miller **Tel:** 01506 854387 **Fax:** 01506 853373
Email: info@oatridge.ac.uk **Web:** www.oatridge.ac.uk **Information:** HNC In Golf Course Management (Part-time): Full-time National Certificate in Greenkeeping: SVQ Level II and GTC Manual (Day and Block Release): SVQ Level 3 Sportsturf & SVQ Level 3 Fast Track (Day and Block Release) SVQ Level III in Service Engineering, full range of Amenity Horticulture, Landscaping and other land based subjects at HND and HNC, National Certificate and SVQ Levels; Short Course - FEPA, Chainsaw, Forklift, First Aid.

WALES



PENCOED COLLEGE Pencoed, Bridgend, Cardiff, CF35 5LG **Contact:** Paul Discombe or John Sullivan **Tel:** 01656 302672 **Fax:** 01656 302601
Email: pfdiscombe@bridgend.ac.uk **Web:** www.bridgend.ac.uk **Information:** NVQ Sportsturf Level 2-3, HNC/HND Turf Management. National Certificate/Advanced National Certificate - Sportsturf Management. Short courses: PA1, PA2 PA6a and Chainsaws. NCH National Certificate in Horticulture. Advanced National Certificate in Horticulture.



Welsh College Of Horticulture Northop Mold, Flintshire CH7 6AA **Contact:** Graham Wright **Tel:** 01352 841034 **Fax:** 01352 841031 **Email:** graham.wright@wCoh.ac.uk
Web: www.wCoh.ac.uk **Information:** Full-time - Higher National Diploma in Turf Management. Part-time - Day release Higher National Certificate in Turf Management. Block Week - NVQ Amenity Sportsturf Levels 2-3. Briefing Days - NVQ Level 4, TDLB Assessor Courses A1 Assessors Award and V1 Verifiers Award. Pesticides Training, Abrasive Wheels, Basic Operation Courses. Day Courses - FEPA, Chainsaw Certification, First Aid, C.I.E.H.

Enjoy Your Greens?

BCA is a BIGGA (British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association) approved centre for greenkeeper training at craft level. We have industrial links and training agreements with top-ranking golf clubs in the area as well as our own Greenkeeping Group. All of this, together with our team of professional staff, ensures that you have the highest quality in training and facilities.

Our golf training facilities are full size and open for play, but are primarily there to train professional greenkeepers. The greens are each of a different design and construction with architecture demonstrating a variety, covering the whole of the 20th century, and looking to the future. Computerised irrigation systems complement this unique training resource.

Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Programmes:

- First Diploma in Horticulture (1 year)
- National Diploma in Horticulture (2 years)
- NVQ Amenity Horticulture, Sports Turf Maintenance, Levels 2 & 3 (part-time)
- Higher National Diploma in Sports Industry Management (2 years, full-time)
- Higher National Certificate in Sports Turf Technology (part-time)
- Higher National Diploma in Sports Turf Technology (2 years, full-time)

For more details please call 01628 824444 or click on www.bca.ac.uk

BCA, Hall Place, Burchetts Green,
Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 6QR
T 01628 824444 F 01628 824695
E enquiries@bca.ac.uk W www.bca.ac.uk



Quality Training for Leisure & Landbased Industries

Myerscough College

The Grass is Greener with Myerscough Sportsturf!



Why Myerscough?

Pioneers in the UK for Sportsturf education provision at degree level, our facilities for the subject are second to none. Our students enjoy placements at the world's most prestigious golf courses.

What Can I Study?

Higher Education Courses

- BSc (Hons) Turfgrass Science
- HNC Turf Science & Golf Course Management
- Foundation Degree in Sportsturf
- On Line Foundation Degree - (by distance learning)

Further Education Courses

- NVQ Level I, II, III & IV* Groundsmanship & Greenkeeping
- First Diploma Groundsmanship & Greenkeeping
- National Certificate Groundsmanship & Greenkeeping
- National Certificate in Sportsturf Machinery
- National Diploma Turf Science & Sportsground Management

*Offered as work-based options where trainees study within the workplace supported by tutor visits and CD/online materials.

We also have various short course programmes - please contact us for a short course prospectus.

Come along to one of our regular Open Morning - call **01995 642211** for details!



Myerscough College
Providing opportunities for all

Ring **01995 642211** for your free prospectus
or e-mail: enquiries@myerscough.ac.uk
www.myerscough.ac.uk

Myerscough College, Bilsborrow, Preston, Lancashire PR3 0RY

OAKLANDS COLLEGE

We offer the following qualifications in GREENKEEPING, LANDSCAPING and AMENITY HORTICULTURE:

NVQ levels 1 - 4
Foundation Modern Apprenticeships
Advanced Modern Apprenticeships
National Certificates
Advanced National Certificates
RHS General Certificate
C&G Garden Design
Pesticide Training
Chainsaw Testing

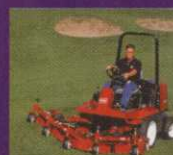
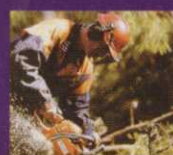
01727 737 080
www.oaklands.ac.uk



OAKLANDS COLLEGE

NPTC ~ Market Leaders in land-based qualifications, delivering accredited Certificates of Competence in:

- Pesticides
- Horticultural Machinery
- Chain Saw
- Arboriculture Operations
- Vertebrate Pest Control
- ATV Handling
- Tractor Driving
- Fork Lift Truck Operations
- Landscaping Plant Machinery



For further information contact:
NPTC, National Agricultural Centre, Stoneleigh
Warwickshire CV8 2LG
Tel: 024 7685 7300
Fax: 024 7669 6128
Email: information@nptc.org.uk
Website: www.nptc.org.uk



YOUR LETTERS ARE REQUESTED!

Send to: Scott MacCallum, Editor, Greenkeeper International, BIGGA HOUSE,
Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF, or email them to: scott@bigga.co.uk

Appalling

The editorial decision to publish the article "Girl Power" in an attempt to be amusing is appalling. If you need telling the reasons why then in the words of the Editor albeit for a different subject, "The long term consequences should be of concern to everyone" in the greenkeeping profession.

Malcolm Searle,
Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk

Making the Case for Bio Stimulants

I am writing with regard to the article written by Bob Taylor of the STRI about what does the future hold in the October issue.

The STRI trial with bio stimulants did not show positive results but I think greenkeepers might like to know of my experience.

I have been Course Manager at the Royal Automobile Club for 26 years and we have always had problems with root growth even though analysis shows the soil to be good for grass.

Frequent aeration did not seem to help. Last autumn we started to get problems with grass cover which was made worse by continuous winter play.

After discussing the options with our consultant we started a programme of adding mycorrhizae and soil microbes and reducing other chemical use. This September we started to apply compost tea brewed in a Symbio Xtractor to increase fungi, protozoa and beneficial nematodes in the soil.

It took several months for real improvements to show but now the rootzone has changed colour from grey to light brown and smells healthy. We now have roots going through the rootzone into the clay, grass cover is superb, fertilisers last much longer and we have reduced our water and fungicide use.

From what I have seen adding microbes and using compost tea with good greenkeeping practice is part of the future.

Bob Wiles, Course Manager, The Royal Automobile Club, Epsom

Bob Taylor Replies...

The article on Organic Products-What's the Hype About, published in the October edition of Greenkeeper International was always going to generate a predictable response particularly from those with a vested interest in the manufacture and sale of these products. If the article is seen to be out of date and erroneous it is only so as a result of a lack of available independent meaningful data which we at the STRI have requested repeatedly to back up the claims being made. However, Novozymes are currently having trial work conducted on new products by the STRI and possibly other producers may be having similar work conducted by other organisations which should help in the availability of independent data.

The article was compiled from numerous sources including recent editions of the USGA's Green Section Record, personal and culminated experience from within STRI and from the trial work conducted both at STRI and in Australia. Interestingly, it was only having completed the seminar on this subject in Adelaide this year at the AGCSA Conference that I was informed of their current trials on this subject which they have carried out totally independently. Although some greenkeepers at the conference intimated to me that they have had some success with microbial products, the results of the Australian trials revealed no significant effects and in essence therefore were not dissimilar to those of STRI. I have found a similar response among British greenkeepers where some appear to see some benefits while others see none.

Clearly from an ecological and environmental point of view, any biological product that helps reduce the amount of pesticides and other chemicals including nitrogenous and phosphatic fertilisers must be welcomed. However without meaningful data substantiated by research how can consultants advise on the pros and cons of the products available.

My own personal view is that the use of microbial products will over time become increasingly important, particularly so given the likely withdrawal of many other chemical products we have become so reliant upon. On existing greens that have become compromised, lacking strong microbial associations, microbial products may find their niche. On healthy surfaces, however, where microbial populations are strong, their value is likely to be reduced. At the end of the talk in Adelaide I asked the question, "What future for microbes?" This section was for some reason omitted at source from the article printed but basically I do see a role, particularly on new sand-based constructions where initial microbe populations are likely to be low. Introducing microbes here may accelerate turf establishment. Ensuring strong microbial populations through the growing and establishment phases may also suppress disease. The presence of a healthy soil fauna is likely to be essential for seed germination, seedling establishment and in encouraging greater rooting depth. While writing this, it did cross my mind that composted material produced in-house would give similar effects "at little cost". This does raise the question therefore, "Are commercial microbial suppliers likely to experience a new level of competition in the near future given the current resurgence of interest in composting organic materials and the European legislation that beckons".

My article was written to stimulate thought and interest, and in the main to re-emphasise the need for ongoing intensive cultural practices. Indeed, there can be no substitute for traditional greenkeeping even if it is now being cosseted by modern mechanical equipment.

I am pleased to see that Symbio are hosting seminars on their products through November and I do sincerely hope that the apparent wealth of data currently held within this and other organisations and repeatedly requested by STRI can be made more available to those of us working within the field.

Bob Taylor, STRI



Compact and Bijou

Roland Taylor looks at the range of compact tractors currently jostling for position in a crowded market

My dictionary defines "compact" as 'having parts or units closely joined', 'occupying a small volume because of efficient use of space'. Both definitions apply to most modern tractors, regardless of their output. Today, the term compact does not necessarily mean a small tractor when it comes to the power it delivers. Over the last two decades diesel engines have come down in actual size, while horsepower has risen.

With the changes that have taken place in agriculture, manufacturers, who previously showed little interest in the groundcare market, are now producing model ranges specifically designed for it. This has meant an increase in competition with the result that innovation is to the fore, as companies strive to retain or gain market share.

The same also applies to tyre companies and, as a result, larger tractors fitted with the correct tyres can now be used on areas where previously it was not possible without damaging the turf and the rootzone layers.

It is also necessary to take into account the power requirements of modern machinery necessary to maintain a course in good condition, especially when it comes to aeration and dealing with compaction. Often this equipment now needs plenty of both engine and pulling power to do the job satisfactorily. For this reason alone it is necessary to find the right tractor for one's own specific requirement. This involves comparing ground weight and the soil types it is likely to be used on.

The following is to whet your appetite, with a selection of models that are now available (plenty are not included simply due to lack of space) plus some experiences your peers have discovered with specific tractors.

JOHN DEERE

This year saw the launch of two new large chassis compacts - the 4610 (44hp) and 4710 (48hp).

There is a choice of transmissions. The eHydro(tm) combines all the benefits of a gear driven tractor for accurate speed control when using coring or deep aeration equipment, plus the flexibility of hydrostatic transmission, when using a loader.

PowrReverser(tm) transmissions is the alternative and provides clutchless shuffling between 12 forward and 12 reverse speeds, plus additional 12/12 creeper gears.

In addition there is the eMatch(tm) which enables the operator to customise the tractor's transmission response for the specific jobs the tractor is carrying out. The system matches the speed and loading and combined with optional cruise control, gives great accuracy with less operator fatigue, especially when working at low speeds.

John Deere has restyled the Standard models in their 5015 series. These new look tractors are available on turf tyres, with either two or four wheel drive. They have a wider cab with improved all round visibility and a low



▲ John Deere 5515 tractor

noise level of 78dB(A). There is a choice of five synchronised transmission systems.

Woking Golf Club is the oldest heathland course in the country and is rated among the top UK 100.

This spring they took delivery of two John Deere tractors, the 4410 (33hp) and a 72hp 5410.

"Our previous equipment could not be relied upon and we were wasting valuable time. The tractors are much more efficient, easier to maintain and very operator friendly. This means we can get the work done faster, leaving more time to spend working on the courses," said Head Greenkeeper, Jon Day.

The smaller tractor with an Aercore 1500 has been used on the greens throughout the summer. In addition to operating spiking, slitting and sarel rolling, it also powers a Tornado side blower and Sisis Variseeder.

For general grounds maintenance work, the larger 5410 is used with an assortment of attachments including Turfmech TM5 vacuum collector, 2-metre Vertidrain aerator and Earthquake subsoiler.

Jon Day concluded that both tractors cope easily with all the jobs they required them to do and by running them on turf tyres they could be used anywhere on the course without causing damage.



▼ John Deere 5015 Series tractor cab



▲ Massey Ferguson tractor

ACGO (Massey Ferguson)

A three cylinder liquid cooled Iseki diesel has been chosen to power the new MF GC2300 mid range compact tractor. This latest addition is part of a new company policy, following extensive customer research in the grounds care sector.

Safety, ease of use and operator comfort, has played a major part in the design of this tractor. The driving position has a sprung adjustable seat that positions an operator so they have all-round visibility and the semi platform provides plenty of leg room. All the controls are colour coded and within easy access. Another feature of this compact tractor is its versatility to take on a host of grounds maintenance tasks in confined areas.

The MFGC joins the already established 2200 series that offers three models from 55hp to 80hp. The emission compliant Perkins diesel engines used for these tractors, are said to provide 10% more power with 5% less fuel consumption.

There is a choice of transmissions and the Speedshift, which is an option, gives a 20% reduction in every gear.

For those looking for fingertip draft and positioning control, there is an optional electronic linkage system with rotary controls for the setting mounted on the console. There are special GE versions of this tractor for use on extreme hilly terrain. The tractor's height has been reduced, so the centre of gravity is lowered and this is said to have the effect of improving the unit's stability under these conditions.

RANSOMES JACOBSEN

The new Iseki TXG23 tractor has a 23hp, clean burn 3-cylinder diesel engine with a displacement of 1123cc. Iseki say their diesel engine has been designed to provide high performance at low cost, and with a 21-litre fuel tank and 540kg lifting capacity, it is designed for heavy work over long hours.

Hydrostatic transmission gives variant speed selection in both forward and reverse. There are a number of features designed for operator comfort, including, a flat floor that allows easy access from both sides and the tractor's bonnet has been angled to provide a clear view out of the front of the machine.

Power steering is standard and all the controls and levers are within easy reach and there is easy access to the engine and other components and servicing has been kept to a minimum.

KUBOTA

The new ME Series is aimed specifically at professionals working within the amenity sports turf. Comprising three models rated at, 58hp, 85hp and 94hp respectively, the ME5700, (58hp) ME8200 (85hp) and ME9000 (94hp) tractors have been developed to deliver very high levels of comfort, performance and operating efficiency within a compact, lighter-treading frame. All are powered by the E-TVCS (three vortex combustion system) water-cooled diesel engine. These are said to produce high torque rise characteristics, reducing the need to change gear while giving smoother performance in all working conditions.

For driver comfort there are ergonomic control layout, illuminated instrument panel and deluxe suspension seat.

Transmission systems match each model's power output. The ME5700 has a fully synchronised 12/12 transmission with clutchless, on-the-move, hydraulic shifting from forward to reverse and vice-versa. The ME8200 and ME9000 have 18 forward and 18 reverse speeds, fully synchronised gearboxes, also with clutchless hydraulic shuttle shift for directional changes without having to stop the tractor.

All three tractors have an independent hydraulic rear PTO, which can be engaged and disengaged on-the-move.



▲ Iseki TXG23 tractor



▲ Antonio Carraro TTR 4400

ANTONIO CARRARO

The TRX multi functional tractors have the provision to allow the attachments to be used either on the front or rear, in some case both. The drive direction is chosen through RSG, a reversible drive system. The tractors are said to have the capabilities of working in a wide range of environments and different terrains.

SAME DEUTZ

Their Deutz-Fahr Agrokid and Same Solaris have a number of commonalities and specifications.

All tractors in these ranges have three PTO points, a 540/1000 rpm rear a 1000/2000 rpm for front and mid mounted equipment. Position and draft controls are fitted as standard. There is 12/12 mechanical transmission, with the option of hydrostatic on the 25hp model. Features included are oil immersed disc brakes and electro hydraulically operated front differential lock, for added traction.

Solaris have four engine options in their range, three water-cooled plus an air-cooled version.

TRACTORS UK

For courses looking for a small compact there is the 3-cylinder, 18.5hp VST1880D which is said to have a host of features comparable with larger tractors. It is less than 1-metre wide so it can be used in areas where access is very limited.

The tractor is powered by a 3-cylinder Mitsubishi diesel engine and has a 6-speed gear box. The straightforward design is said to require minimal maintenance while retaining durability and make the VST 1880D competitively priced.

MOTOKOV

The TYM range is made up of models from 31hp to 70hp, with the smaller fitted with Kubota engines and the larger 55hp and 70hp have John Deere power units. Synchro shuttle transmission is standard on most models and the creep speed is fitted on the bigger machines. Other features include selectable 4-wheel drive and the multi-plate hydraulic PTO package, which is operated by a hydroelectric control from the driving consul. All the TYM tractors have two years manufacturer's warranty.

KIOTI

The DK range includes 5 tractors from 35hp to 51hp. All have mechanical gearboxes with full synchronisation. The hydrostatic steering has its own hydraulic pump and there is the option on some models of a double speed turning system that is said to reduce the turning radius and avoid scuffing of the tyres. Kiota 'green' engines use indirect injection technology that meets emission regulations throughout the world. The hydraulics has its own high flow pump driven directly off the engine. Position and draft control, plus swinging towbar, are all fitted as standard. The tractors have two year unlimited hours, parts and labour warranty.

RENAULT

The specifications of the Dions and Fructus series include tractors from 52hp to 76hp, with either a field or creep version available. A main feature is the driving position, which has a plenty of leg room and colour coded controls for ease of operation red for transmission, green for hydraulics and yellow for power.

There are now over 20 UK firms offering tractor ranges in what is a relatively static marketplace. It is worth checking out the specifications from as many suppliers as possible. The aim is to determine exactly what is included and what the optional extras are, then talk to other users before arranging a demonstration. There should be no problem in getting suppliers to demonstrate their latest models, it is more likely that you would not have all the time required to see them.

Competition for market share is fierce, so the financial package also needs to be taken into account.

A small amount of research could result in some considerable savings being made.

McCORMICK

Wetherby Golf Club in Yorkshire had a need for a mid sized tractor which would operate a 1.5metre punch-action tiner/corer, but be light enough not to damage the greens.

"The McCormick GX45 is part of a new range of groundcare tractors and seemed to embody the things we were looking for. It has been kept very busy over the past year and exceeded our expectations, in terms of the growing number of jobs we've found for the little tractor," says Head Greenkeeper David Hannam. He went on to say that they decided on a set of generous flotation tyres that allow the tractor to work on delicate grass areas, without leaving a mark yet have enough grip on their more challenging banks.

The GX45 is powered by a 44hp Yanmar diesel engine, has mechanical forward-reverse shuttle and 12-speed transmission plus creep facility. At Wetherby it handles the corer, three different cylinder and rotary gang mowers and a trailer for general transport work.

Eric Wallis, one of the tractor's regular drivers, added that the tractor runs very smoothly, is light to operate and very manoeuvrable.

"It is just what we needed for mowing and other work, and copes well with all the jobs we have given it."

A drop valve to regulate lift arm descent has been added to ensure the heavy corer can be lowered to the ground gently.

David Hannam concluded by saying that following crew training, calibration and familiarity trials, the GX45 recently came through a full 18 green run of hollow tining in eight hours with exemplary performance."



▲ McCormick GX45 tractor