



TRAINING & TECHNICAL

BALI WORKSHOPS 2011

For more information and to book a place on any of the following workshops, please contact Daljeet Billing on 02476 690333 or email dbilling@bali.org.uk. Preferential rates for BALI members.

Subject	Speaker	Date
Designer Pre-Assessment Day	Robin Templar Williams	Thu 12 May
Design Principles	Robin Templar Williams	Fri 20 May
Difficult Sloping Gardens	Robin Templar Williams	Thu 16 Jun
Designer Assessment Day	Robin Templar Williams Christine Parsons Caroline Davy	Fri 17 Jun
Planting Design		TBC
Drainage and SUDS	Jonathan Glerum (CIRIA)	TBC

Keeping quality simple

For landscapers that have been providing a professional service over the years to suddenly be asked to implement a formal Quality Management System (QMS) to meet the requirements of ISO9001:2008 or the National Highway Sector Scheme for Quality Management in Highway Works (NHSS18) can invoke a feeling of dread. The thought of huge volumes of paper work, lots of time and great expense, not to mention a lack of resources and capability to achieve the desired outcome of independent assessment by United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) accredited Certification Body, is enough to dissuade any right thinking contractor from going the QMS route.

The reality is that implementing a Quality Management System needn't be daunting. Most landscape companies will already have some key fundamental elements of the system in place and will, for instance, already understand their processes for winning work; communicating the requirements to the workforce; ensuring that operatives hold appropriate levels of qualifications for activities such as pesticide application or use of a chainsaw etc. Although these processes are generally well understood, they may not always be documented. In addition to that, a QMS generally requires some additional activities to be introduced such as the use of formal management review meetings, reporting of problems (or nonconformities) and internal audits.

Gareth Rees is a BALI Board Director, Chairman of BALI Wales Region and Director of Inscapes, a multi-disciplinary landscaping company based in Bridgend. Gareth's company specialises in the provision of skilled project management expertise to create or protect landscapes. The work is varied and takes the teams onto sites as diverse as sporting facilities, such as the prestigious Ryder Cup 2010 golf course at Celtic Manor, Newport, to working with historic sites of interest such as Hampton Court Palace. Although there is a huge diversity in the size and complexity of the operations undertaken by Inscapes, Gareth explains that having a formal Quality Management System that meets the requirements of ISO9001:2008 has helped his business because the team "rely on systems, not people" and Gareth has seen that it "helps to win tenders".

Although Inscapes has a QMS, it is far from cumbersome. Gareth is proud of the fact that Inscapes keeps their paperwork to a minimum by having built the system around the requirements of the business. So whilst there are job sheets and Gantt charts to communicate project information and scheduling requirements, the team at Inscapes has endeavoured to keep the system as simple as possible. With regards to the Environmental

WorldSkills UK Landscape Gardening Competition 2011

As the start of the 2011 UK competition draws closer, there are still opportunities for industry suppliers, training providers etc to sponsor and for competitors to throw their hats into the ring.

Run by BALI in association with UKSkills, the WorldSkills UK Landscape Gardening Competition challenges student landscape gardeners across the country to build identical 2m x 3m gardens within 6.5 hours; the eight competitors who score the highest will be invited to attend the national final where they will construct 6m x 6m gardens in teams of two. Each year up to 40 young landscapers enter the competition from colleges and industry across the UK.

This year's garden design, created for the contest by Patricia Fox MBALI of Aralia Garden Design, includes timber work, paving, walling, turfing and planting, and BALI is urgently seeking suppliers who would benefit from exposure to colleges and to the domestic consumers who will be attending the RHS Malvern Shows to donate materials.

BALI is delighted that Marshalls plc have confirmed their continued main sponsorship of the competition this year and they will be supplying all hard landscaping materials required by the teams to create the garden design. Landscapeplus have also kindly agreed to continue with their support and provide all pond equipment. Quality compost and bark mulch will be provided by regular sponsors Melcourt Industries and competition stalwarts QLawns will supply their excellent turf.

2011 competition dates for your diary:

12 – 15 May Regional heat at the Malvern Spring Gardening Show

22 – 25 September National final at the Malvern Autumn Show

Financial sponsorship to support the staging and judging of the competition, and to help competitors take part, is still urgently needed. To find out more about the benefits of sponsorship in 2011, or to enter the competition, contact Angela Radley at aradley@bali.org.uk or call her on 02476 698658.



Management Standard ISO14001:2004, Gareth goes so far as to say "there will come a point where, without it, you won't get on a tender list", especially as landscaping is perceived to be a "green" industry.

www.penarth.co.uk

In response to BALI members' requests for help with developing and documenting their management systems, BALI plans to run a programme of workshops over a six month period that will enable landscape businesses to implement formal Quality Management Systems to meet the requirements of Standards that are simple, relevant to their business but able to stand up to the scrutiny of any assessor. Full details will be available shortly.