Renew your membership for increased benefits!

In September, over 90 new members joined BIGGA and become part of the largest greenkeeping association in Europe. Membership has grown in strength and now boasts almost 7,200 members. If your expiry date is 31 December 2000/01, your renewal pack will be with you this month. Read it! It contains important information on improvements to your benefits.

Watch out for your renewal envelope dropping through your letterbox later this month.

New benefits for members for 2001 include a health care scheme. You can choose a plan that most suits your lifestyle, you elect to pay a weekly or monthly sum to cover you for the cost of minor medical treatments not normally covered by the NHS. In this way you will always have the funds to pay for dental treatment, glasses or contact lenses, physiotherapy and a whole host of other treatments including consultation by a specialist. By ensuring that you have the funds you can ensure that you have the treatment when you most need it as opposed to when you can afford it.

Be a BIGGA winner!

Also, in your renewal pack will be two yellow application forms, pass them on to your greening colleague or colleagues, who are not already members, and encourage them to become part of BIGGA. Each month, if you introduce one new member, your name will be placed into a draw to win £50 worth of vouchers to spend in a popular high street store.

Watch out for December’s Membership Update for details on another exciting new membership benefit.

BIGGA welcomes...

Scottish Region
Steven J Arnett, Aberdeenshire
Craig Davidson, East
Graeme Davidson, East
Logan J Ferguson, East
Wilton Fulton, Ayrshire
Kevin A I Nelson, East
Ian I Nelson, East
Steven Wilson, Ayrshire

Deidre Hotchkiss, Midland
Martin Hutchie, Mid Anglia
Michael L Latimer, Mid Anglia
Dame J Reeves, Mid Anglia
Anthony P Rudge, Mid Anglia
Adam Sharratt, Midland
Robert Seppings, Mid Anglia
Graeme W Steimer, Midland
Sarah J Turner, East
Middleton Christopher J Yemans, Mid Anglia

Northern Region
Richard Allan, N West
Matthew J Blymer, Northern
Anthony A Call, N East
Peter L Cogar, N West
Graeme Dougherty, N West
Stuart L Forster, N West
Andrew D Ellis, Northern
John F T Evans, N West
John Grimes, N West
Ehren Mowse, N West
Michael Rogers, Northern
Andrew W Sprigg, Northern
Tony Smith, N West
Richard G Wilson, N West

Midlands Region
Andrew Sealey, Midland
Phillip Chiverton, BB&B
Peter Hotto, Mid Anglia

Paul M Witton, Berks
David S Batham, London
David Beale, Exe
Jenifer J Bradbury, Surrey
Steve Brennan, London
Peter J Briner, Surrey
Mark D Couch, Surrey
Tim Daniel, Suss
Andrew Duffy, Suss
Myint J Field, Surrey
Neil Ghigan, London
Chris Guy, E Anglia
Nicholas Guy, E Anglia
Richard H Hayes, Exe
Richard J Hayward, London
Robert J Kemp, London
Tina Leggett, London
Geary Leggett, Surrey
Richard P Lee, Exe
Robert J Millard, Exe
Matthew Short, Surrey

Barry J Smith, Surrey
Rob S Thomas, London
Ken Wherrett, London
Michael Wolding, E Anglia

S West & S Wales Region
Andrew J Brown, S Coast
Graham C Burdick, Devon & Cornwall
Ryan J Church, S Coast
Dennis D Crowe, Devon
Matthew D Offit, S Wales
Pete Jackson, S Wales

Northern Ireland
Lee M Callister
Mark Cassidy
Damien Doantry
Adam Kelly
Scott Olley
Irwin Robinson
Ivan J Ward

Republic of Ireland
Donal Kearney

International Members
Michael Otegune, Sweden
Dirk Josef Thelen, Mexico
Shawn W Septimus, USA

John Barry, Australia
Associate Members
John A & Suej, Central
Karen Kerr, E Midland
Nigel Kirkby, E England
Dawn Magan, E England
Jonathan T Wood, E Midland
A Aliki Demetriou, Eesx
Mark MacDonald, London
Teresa Welch, London
Paul Barnsley, S Coast
Stephen Cliffen, Devon & Cornwall
Jeremy A Dunn, S West
Derek D Jenkins, S West

Students Members
Darrin Kiley, Lurcio
Rosanne E Roberts, S West

Check out December’s newsletter for details on October’s new members!

BIGGA’s Education and Training Manager, Ken Richardson, reports on the latest education and training developments

INDIVIDUAL LEARNING ACCOUNTS

What are they?
To enable all of you to help pay for education and training, the Government have introduced a scheme called Individual Learning Accounts. Supported by a range of Training Providers, the Accounts are designed to make it easier for you to start and continue learning.

Who can have an account?
Accounts can be opened by anyone aged 19 or over.

How do I open an account?
You need to obtain an application form by phoning 0800 0725678 in England or 0800 100999 in Scotland or 01792 354126 in Wales or ask your college or other training provider. You should return the completed form to the Individual Learning Account Centre which handles your account. The form asks if you have opened an account before, asks for information on citizenship, asks for your date of birth, personal information and information on your own learning.

What do I get from an account?
Once you have opened an account you will be able to claim discounts on a range of learning, eg. If you are one of the first million to open an account, you will get a £130 contribution towards the cost of your course if you contribute £23. If you are not in the first million account holders, you can claim a 20% discount on a wide range of work related learning up to a maximum of £100 in any one year. You may even be eligible for an 80% discount, up to a maximum of £200, on some types of learning eg. computer training courses and key skills in maths.

How will the scheme work for me?
Many of BIGGA’s Regional Training Courses could, in the future, be eligible for ILA discounts, with further support with BIGGA’s Education and Development Fund subsidies to BIGGA members, will ensure quality training provision at even lower costs.

Are there any courses that are not eligible for discounts?
You will not be able to claim discounts on:
Graduate or post graduate courses.
Courses that you have started already.
Learning for which you have already received government help.
Leisure or sports courses.

How can I find out whether the course that I want is eligible for discounts?
You can find out by asking the training provider eg college, BIGGA etc. or by phoning the Individual Learning Account Centre on 08000 7295678.

How do I claim discounts?
Once you have opened your account, you will then need to contact your chosen learning provider. The learning provider will then:
Check your account details with the Individual Learning Account Centre.
Confirm your enrolment and eligibility for a discount.
Take the payment for your own contribution.
Claim your discount entitlement from the Individual Learning Account Centre.

Don’t delay, contact your Individual Learning Account Centre, request an application form and look for discounts on your learning courses.

BIGGA HOUSE and Regional Training Courses
Following a very poor response for this year’s BIGGA HOUSE Courses, we have been forced to cancel all advertised courses except the Making Budgets Work week which runs from 16 to 19 October.

Regional Courses cancelled are Making Meetings Work on 22/23 November at Staging, Interviews and Appraisals on 11/12 December at Huntingdon and Ornamental Horticulture on 29 November at Ham Manor, Making Budgets Count at the East Cliff Hotel, Bournemouth will now be held on 15/16 February 2001 and not on 19/20 February 2001.

The Learning Experience

Bookings have started to arrive at BIGGA HOUSE for the Learning Experience 2001, which, once again, will be held with the support of Leisure Travell Care and Speciality Products, in Harragote, North Yorkshire.

Starting with the National Education Conference and Workshop Programme which are being held in the Majestic Hotel on Monday 22 and Tuesday 23 January 2001, the Learning Experience continues with the joint BIGGA/ASHRIT Course, Running Golf Courses in the 21st Century, held in the Crown Hotel, followed by the BTME Seminar Programme, which starts in the Royal Hall on Wednesday 24 January.

Full information on all of the Harrogate Learning Opportunities can be found in the Learning Experience brochure which can be obtained from BIGGA HOUSE.

Please note that due to a production problem there is an error on the Bed and Breakfast section of the Learning Experience booking form. The dates should read: Sunday 21, Monday 22, Tuesday 23, Wednesday 24 and Thursday 25 January.