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

Golden and Silver Key Membership is available to both companies and individuals.

For details, please contact Ken Richardson on 01347 833800 or via ken@bigga.co.uk

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Thank you to all our supporters and supporters of the BIGGA Higher Education Scholarship Scheme. Without the contributions of our sponsors, this scheme would not be possible.

Time seems to fly by here at BIGGA House, especially this week, which has seen a very successful inaugural Neil Thomas Memorial Golf Day, a Board of Management Meeting and a meeting of the Standing Committee on Greenkeepers’ Salaries.

Toro Student of the Year Competition 2004

The Regional Finals of the TORO Student of the Year Competition take place this month. The Scottish interviews are in Edinburgh on July 5, the Northern and Irish interviews are at Manchester Airport on July 6, the South East Interviews are at Hemel Hempstead on July 7, the South West Interviews are at Cheltenham on July 8 and the Midlands Interviews are at Huntington on July 9. Full results should appear in the August edition of the magazine.

British and International Turf Managers Conference 2005

The plan for the first BITMC, which will be held at the Staverton Park Conference Centre on March 19 & 20, 2005, is beginning to take shape.

Speakers have already agreed to present papers on a number of turf science and management topics plus a number of management subjects including Media Relations, Leadership and Management and Establishing Working Relationships.

The Regional Finals of the Silver Key Individual Members Competition 2004 will be held at the National Agricultural Centre, Stoneleigh, to review the Standards of knowledge and skills required by Course Managers and to decide which of those Standards should be incorporated into the Level 4 N/SVQ.

Fjord Turf, ie: Greenkeeping and Groundsmanship, have led the way in the introduction of N/SVQs and this meeting proved, once again that the Sector was well prepared to present its case for the Sportsturf management qualification to continue.

A further meeting will decide on the actual content of this VQ but Course Managers can rest assured that it will be totally relevant to their needs and to the needs of golf clubs.

BIGGA Golf Environment Competition

The deadline for entries to this year’s Competition has passed. However, there is still time to get your application in to the judges if you are quick. Thanks to our sponsors WRAP, Scotts and Syngenta, we are able to offer even more prizes this year, so don’t delay and send in your application today.

Regional Training Courses

You should have received a Regional Training Course Leaflet in this copy of Greenkeeper International. If you haven’t received your copy then contact me or Sami and we shall ensure that you get a copy by return post.

Keen eyed members will see that we have had to increase the cost of the courses to £49 for one day and £99 for two days. They are still excellent value however as each day of training costs BIGGA approximately £120.

Therefore, each delegate gets a subsidy of £71 per day from the BIGGA Education and Development Fund thanks to our Golden and Silver Key sponsors. The Fund is also subsidising the South West Region Conference, the Midlands Conference, the Scottish Region Conference and a number of Section Seminars.

N/SVQ Level 4 Sportsturf Management Review

Along with representatives from all parts of the fine turf industries I attended a meeting held at the offices of Lantra at the National Agricultural Centre, Stoneleigh, to review the Standards of knowledge and skills required by Course Managers and to decide which of those Standards should be incorporated into the Level 4 N/SVQ.

Fine Turf, ie: Greenkeeping and Groundsmanship, have led the way in the introduction of N/SVQs and this meeting proved, once again that the Sector was well prepared to present its case for the Sportsturf management qualification to continue.

A further meeting will decide on the actual content of this VQ but Course Managers can rest assured that it will be totally relevant to their needs and to the needs of golf clubs.

BIGGA Higher Education Scholarships

Thanks to continued sponsorship from Ransomes Jacobsen, the BIGGA Higher Education Scholarship Scheme is set to run for a further three years.

With more than 40 scholars so far, the scholarship scheme is proving vital in the greenkeeper’s search for higher education funding. The first three Masters of Science, supported by the scheme, graduate on 9 July and my congratulations go to Peter Jones, Eoghan Buckley and Barry Dore.