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

Golden Key Company Members
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- John Deere Ltd 01949 860492
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- PGA European Tour 01344 842881
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Compost Seminars in the North West

Environlink North West are presenting three seminars on the commercial advantages of using compost at three golf clubs in the North West Section.

The venues are:
- 8th March 2007: Penrith GC, Penrith 9.30 to 13:00
- 14th March 2007: Worsley Park GC, Manchester 9.30 to 13:00
- 15th March 2007: Blundells Hill GC, Liverpool 9.30 to 13:00

Programme:
Issues of sustainability including recycling targets and diversion from landfill have resulted in the dramatic growth of the composting sector. The composting process can produce high quality fertilisers and soil conditioners. These workshops aim to demonstrate, not only the chemical, biological and physical benefits of using compost but also the financial advantages of compost use in a commercial situation.

Topics for discussion:
- What is compost and how to purchase it?
- The benefits of using compost
- Compost production and specification
- Quality standards (BSI PAS 100, WRAP specifications) and quality issues
- Compost versus conventional fertilisers: cost comparison
- Specifications for sports turf applications
- Compost use: tools and resources for the sports turf professional

These workshops are aimed specifically at the Sports Turf Industry and will be conducted by Ron Alexander an American horticulturalist and compost specialist with over 21 years experience in the US and UK.

Safety Management System

Some of you may have seen the launch of the joint AGCS/BIGGA Safety Management System at Harrogate. It is designed to give all golf clubs the tools to develop their own Health and Safety System, making clubs healthier workplaces, to reduce costs due to accidents and injuries and to, hopefully, reduce club insurance premiums.

The System will be Internet based and all members of BIGGA and/or the AGCS will have free access. We are working hard to put the finishing touches to the System and we hope that it will be available on both Internet sites by the end of March.

As this package is worth approximately £5000 to each golf club, it makes sense for all greenkeepers to be members of BIGGA.

Following an extremely successful Harrogate Week programme when we offered more education sessions than ever before, our thoughts turn to Harrogate Week 2008. Yes, we have started to plan for next year and we hope to have a full programme of workshops and seminars to meet all needs. You can have your input to the Continue to Learn programme by telling us what and who you would like to see.

Contact me: ken@bigga.co.uk or: sami@bigga.co.uk

Ken Richardson at launch of SMS

Contact Linda McGeechan on: 01925 813200 to reserve your place.