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

Sami Collins updates us on Learning and Development matters

Time is marching on towards January and Harrogate Week. Rachael and I are now in full swing processing bookings for the Continue to Learn Education Programme that are arriving via post, telephone and the web.

Supported by the John Deere Team Championship and the GTC, we are featuring five new workshops on the 2008 programme:

Managing Relationships at Work

I am sure we all have relationships with work colleagues that could be described as ‘challenging’. This two-day workshop will examine those relationships in an engaging, interactive and enjoyable way. Focusing on what makes us tick, personal effectiveness, building rapport, teamwork and conflict resolution this workshop aims to help resolve issues and create a more harmonious working environment.

Managing the Golf Course Better

Do you want to understand how the business of managing a golf course is achieved? Look no further, this one-day workshop, presented by Laurence Pitthie MG, Group Golf Courses Manager with Crown Golf, will reveal a route you can follow. Looking at the Golf Club, the Course Managers Role, Basic Planning, Implementation and Setting Up Systems, this workshop will provide you with a strategy to take back to your workplace.

Stress Awareness

Would you like to enhance your wellbeing and your personal effectiveness at work and at home? The purpose of this one-day workshop, presented by a qualified Stress Management Consultant, is to provide participants with the knowledge and awareness to identify and manage their own stress levels and to help them recognise the causes and effects of stress in others.

The Minefield of Appraisals!

Is it appraisal time again? Why do we have appraisals? What use are they? Are these questions you hear every time the ‘A’ word is mentioned? This informative one-day workshop aims to improve the understanding and the importance of appraisals, how to conduct them and how to use the outcomes to make a difference.

The Disturbance Theory

The Disturbance what? Henry Bechelet, Turfgrass Agronomist with the STRI, will reveal all, in what promises to be an entertaining and enlightening one-day workshop. Guest speakers will discuss practical greenkeeping for the modern age, managing growth, surface preparations without compromise, disturbance theory around the world and the 2007 Open at Carnoustie.

Remember, places are limited on all of the workshops so book now to avoid disappointment.

Full details of the Continue to Learn Education Programme can be found in ‘The Definitive Guide to Harrogate Week’ brochure or by visiting the Harrogate Week website www.harrogateweek.org.uk.

Toro Student of the Year Award 2007

Congratulations must go to the eight student greenkeepers who attended the National Final of the Student of the Year at BIGGA HQ on 16 & 17 September. All eight candidates represented the greenkeeping profession to the highest standard.

The 2007 Toro Student of the Year Award was won by Avon Bridges, Head Greenkeeper at Luton Hoo Golf Club who was representing Oaklands College. The runners-up were Lewis Birch from Abbeydale Golf Club, representing Ashkam Bryan College and Simon Lambert from Seaford Head Golf Club, representing Plumpton College.

Full details of the final can be found in this magazine.