Learning & Development

Head of Learning & Development, Sami Collins, continues to tackle that huge pile of projects...

As I alluded to in last month’s article, I’m finally back in the office and working on all the projects that have been piling up on my desk since before Christmas!

The Master Greenkeeper Certificate was devised and introduced in the late 1980s, with the first Certificate being awarded in 1991 to Laurence Pittie MG. Since that date the criteria of the Certificate has remained much the same with some minor alterations to try and keep it current.

At this year’s Master Greenkeeper AGM, it was agreed that the time had finally come to do a full review of the Certificate, so we’re now heading towards the first meeting of the Master Greenkeeper Review Panel.

The panel comprises Andy Campbell MG, CGCS; Eric Foerster MG, CGCS; Walter Montross MG, CGCS and Lee Strutt MG, AGS. Eric and Walter have experience working with the GCSAA on the re-development of the Certified Golf Course Superintendent and we hope to tap into their knowledge during the review.

Andy and Lee have extensive experience working with the current Certificate and have also benefited from achieving either CGCS designation or AGS (Accredited Golf Superintendent) awarded by the Canadian Golf Superintendents Association.

There’s a great deal of work to do and I’ll endeavour to keep you up to date with our progress.

CPD

Continuing Professional Development

Also high on the ‘Projects’ list is a review of the Continuing Professional Development scheme. Introduced in 2000, the CPD scheme was designed to allow members to record the training that they attended and receive an annual Certificate of Achievement or a Diploma after five years of achievement.

Continuing Professional Development has become much more than a point counting exercise in recent years and the current system is no longer standing up to the requirements of the industry. As part of the alliance between BIGGA, GCMA and The PGA, CPD has been placed high on the agenda to help in the development and recognition of our members.

We have put together a small working party to develop ideas for a new scheme.

The working party alerted the Board of Directors in December 2009 that there would not be a ‘quick fix’ to the scheme and that a thorough review would take place to ensure that the final product was robust and serve the purposes of the Members.

Again, there’s a great deal of work to be undertaken to deliver this project, but I’ll keep you up to date with our progress.

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Golden Key Individual Members: WJ Rogers; Andy Campbell MG, CGCS; Ian A Mackie; Tom Smith; Frank Newberry; Christopher Lomas MG; Lee Strutt MG; Silver Key Individual Members: Ade Archer; Iain Barr; Hamish Campbell; Steve Dixon; Paul Jenkiss; Robert Malbusch MG; Richard McClynn; Stephen Pope; Jason Sama; Steven Tierney; Neil Whitaker; Graham Wylie; Michael Beaton, Douglas Duguid

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Higher Education Scholarships

Watch this space for announcements.

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The most recent scholarship has been awarded to: Timothy Johnson – BSc in Turfgrass Science (Online)