Learning & Development

Sami Collins, Head of Learning & Development, with an update on education issues

July is a busy month in the Learning and Development Department. Rachael will be heading off to The Open at Lytham St Annes and will spend the week ensuring that every member of the greenkeeping open support team is where they need to be, at the time they need to be there and making sure that everything runs smoothly.

The 2012 Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year finalists (2011 winner Matt Perks, shown right) will be selected and the deadline for the completed Continue to Learn at Harrogate Week 2013 education programme will be fast approaching.

If you see either Rachael or I in July, we will probably just be a blur!

New Team Member

I am delighted to welcome Stuart Green to the department in the role of Learning and Development Executive.

Stuart is joining BIGGA from Askham Bryan College and will bring knowledge and experience to the department with his background in greenkeeping and the sports turf education system.

His skills will help BIGGA to ensure the development and delivery of the Learning and Development pathways for our members. I’m sure you’ll all join me in welcoming Stuart to BIGGA.

BIGGA Seminars at SALTEX

BIGGA is delighted to have once again, been invited by the IOG to present a series of seminars at SALTEX 2012.

This year we will be bringing you some of the greatest hits from the extremely successful Continue to Learn at BTME 2012. The seminars will take place on Wednesday 5 September in the Grandstand at Windsor Racecourse.

This month I would like to welcome the BIGGA Open Support Team to the Open at Lytham and St Annes for this years Open Championships from 15th – 22nd July. BIGGA play a valuable role within the Open Championship providing support to the home greenkeeping teams since 1984.

All Greenkeeping BIGGA members are eligible to apply to be on the Open Support Team.

The 50plus strong team is selected using a number of different criteria including experience and BIGGA involvement but there is also a category for first time applicants to ensure everyone has an opportunity.

One of the top 50 qualities of any successful event is an excellent well trained team.

Rachael Duffy, Sandra Raper, John Young and myself are the representatives from HQ, together with support from the Board of Management, however, we need to rely on experienced members who have previously been part of the support team.

‘Core’ members are selected to take on the roles of mini bus drivers, lead volunteers and first tee representatives, once this team is selected from suitable applicants, we then review the rest of the applications, as this is a fantastic opportunity for members as we usually oversubscribed for places, so applications for consideration are carefully reviewed.

A place on the team is open to all BIGGA members but priority is given to those who are more active members.

If you are applying to become part of the Open Support Team why not consider becoming more involved with the Association, for example get more involved in your section, join the CPD scheme or attend Harrogate Week.

If you are over the age of 25 why not volunteer to be a mini bus driver or a deputy mini bus driver. Successful applications are then entered into a draw to make up the full team.

Have we got your right email address?

We know you all love receiving your monthly copy of Greenkeeper International, but living in this digital age, BIGGA want to complement the magazine with an e-newsletter.

To ensure you receive your copy check with us that you have your up to date email address.

Either check the information on your membership renewal form, if this is due or you have recently renewed, or send an email to membership@bigga.co.uk with ‘Email address’ in the subject line.

SALTEX

If you plan to visit SALTEX this year, 4-6 September, at Windsor Racecourse make sure you check out the series of three seminars presented by BIGGA on Wednesday 5 September.

Whilst you are at SALTEX don’t forget to come and say hello to the BIGGA Team on stand E333, we hope to be in the usual cabin sheltering from the rain or enjoying the lovely sunshine on thecourses outside!

Bioflow Sport Wristbands

BIGGA are pleased to announce that we have secured a 15% discount for BIGGA members off the price of Bioflow sport wristbands. Bioflow wristbands have been supporting the sports market for over 15 years and are chosen by professionals worldwide to help enhance their performance through the benefits of magnetic therapy.

Visit the bioflow website at www.bioflowsport.com select the wristband colour and size to suit and at checkout enter the code W15G1S in the voucher code field under the payment section.

Contact Details

Tracey Maddison, Head of Membership, provides a departmental update

Silver Key Individual Members:

Frank Newberry, Sam Langrick

Gold Key Individual Members:

Steve Dixon, Richard McGlynn, Ian MacMillan MG, Ian Morrison

Gold Key Sponsors

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OTHER USEFUL NUMBERS

[Full Members only]

Personal Accident Legal Protection 01768 810953

Greenkeepers Legal Protection 01768 817907

Debt Counselling Helpline 0800 177 7891

Greenkeepers Support Assistance 0800 174 319

Family Mediation Services 0844 567 2098

Further information at www.bigga.org.uk