September is turning out to be a busy old month for the members of the Learning and Development team with Saltex, the Assistants Development Programme, the final of the Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award and the final checks on the Continue to Learn at BTME 2013 brochure.

SALTEx

Rachael will be at SALTEx, along with several other members of the BIGGA office, to answer any questions you may have about your membership or the benefits that BIGGA offers.

BIGGA are also presenting three seminars on Wednesday 5 September, held in the Grassland, from 10.15 am. Featuring presentations from Chris Haspell from Castle Stuart Golf Club, David Cole from Loch Lomond Golf Club and Paul Losey from Bamburgh. CPD points are available for attendance at these seminars.

The BIGGA Stand is E33. Pop along and say hello!

Assistants Development Seminars

The L&D department has been tasked by the Board of Management to develop a seminar to help those in the role of greenkeeper or first assistant who want to improve their skills for developing a career in the greenkeeping industry.

The project, being coordinated by our new recruit, Stuart Green, will initially see 10 course managers trained, here at BIGGA House, to deliver the seminar. The seminars will then be run in each region this Autumn/Winter.

The seminar will cover areas including:
- Communication
- People skills
- Responsibilities
- Thinking like a manager
- Career development
- Curriculum vitae
- Interview techniques

Dates of the seminars are yet to be confirmed, look out for announcements in future issues of GI and on the BIGGA website.

Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year

The National Final of the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year will take place on Sunday 16 and Monday 17 September here at BIGGA House.

The finalists will be asked to complete a written assignment based on a task that will be given to them at 9.00 am on Monday morning. They will also have a 45 minute interview with a panel of four judges from Toro and BIGGA.

Look out for the Winner on the cover of the October issue of GI. This sure you’ll join us in wishing “Good Luck” to all the finalists.

Personal Development Zone at BTME 2013

What information would you like to get from the Personal Development Zone at BTME in January 2013?

The content of the Continue to Learn programme is now in the hands of our Designer, Tom Campbell, to turn into a printed brochure providing you with all the information you’ll need to plan your educational visit to Harrogate.

The brochure will be dropping on your doormat with the October issue of GI. Full details of the programme will also be available on the BIGGA website where you will also be able to use our online booking system to secure your place for the Workshops, Conference and Focus On sessions.

With over 180 hours of education available, over four days, there is sure to be something of interest for everyone attending.

The Continue to Learn Education Programme at BTME 2013 will run from Sunday 20 January to Wednesday 23 January. We look forward to seeing you there!

Calling all Full and Affiliate Members of BIGGA, are you ready for the challenge of this years BIGGA National Championship, sponsored by Castle Stuart and Kubota.

Last month’s issue of Greenkeeper International gave a great overview of this year’s venue for the BIGGA National Championship. The Irvine Golf Club at Bogside in Scotland. A true links challenge, the course sits on land with fairways divided roughly by thick gorse bushes and heather. Built in 1897 some of the present character of the course comes from James Baillie’s designs in the 1920’s and will provide even the best golfers with an opportunity to shine or despair.

The dates for this year’s championship are Sunday 8th and Monday 9th October 2012 and as the course sits in a side location, the neighbouring Gulf Stream ensures your round will be a test of your mettle.

Why not pitch yourself against some of the best golfing greenkeepers in the UK at the Golf Club and be in with a chance of getting your name on the coveted Challenge Trophy, along with last year’s winner Jason Hunt (Addlestone GC), and 2010’s winner Paul Frith (Birstall GC).

Entry fee is £40 and this includes all golf fees, lunch both days and dinner on Monday evening (accommodation not included). Entry is limited so get your booking in nice and early.

The main tournament for the Challenge Trophy will be played over 36 holes, net play, with the best overall gross score producing the BIGGA National Champion, who must be a greenkeeper member, the greenkeeper player with the lowest score will be presented with the BIGGA Challenge Trophy.

For full details see August’s magazine or contact Rachael Duff at BIGGA House. Deadline for entry is 11th September 2012.

As a BIGGA Member you can access a great collection of turfgrass educational material.

This is a great benefit for all members who are currently in study, so whether you are studying at Level 2, 3 or 4 or studying for a diploma or degree this is definitely a resource you will find useful.

To access the TGF log into the members area of the BIGGA website, select ‘Member Resources’ from the options on the left hand side, scroll down to ‘Turfgrass Information File (TGF)’ and download the Getting Started Guide or just click on the link which will give you access to the file directly.

The BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition (BTME) 2013

Dates for your diary – 22nd – 24th January 2013 at Harrogate International Centre (HIC). With FREE entry to BTME 2013 you cannot afford to miss coming along to the must attend event for anybody interested in turf.

Education Seminars and Workshops

Continue to Learn at BTME 2013 runs from Sunday 20th to Wednesday 23rd January 2013. With Access to the Return of the Turfgrass Information File (TGF) where members can gain access to a vast collection of turfgrass educational material.

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