The jingle bells have been put away, Santa’s elves have gone on holiday and we’ve sung ‘Auld Lang Syne’ so that can only mean that it’s 2013. Happy New Year from all of us in the Learning and Development Department, may it be happy, healthy and prosperous.

You all know what January means in the greenskeeping calendar – BTME, and more specifically for L&D, the Continue to Learn education programme.

Continue to Learn

The Continue to Learn programme this year offers more than 100 hours of education with subjects ranging from IT skills to the A, B, Cs of Putting Green Maintenance. The education offerings range from 30 minutes in length to 2 days and everything in between. You can view the full programme on the BTME website www.btme.org.uk.

Our American friends, Thom Nikolai from Michigan State University (aka The Doctor of Green Speed) and Curtis Tyrell MG, CGCS from Medinah Golf & Country Club in Chicago will both be featuring on the education programme, discussing subjects including the Ryder Cup and putting green speed.

Have you pre-booked your place at the seminars? As a BIGGA member you have the opportunity to guarantee your seat for the seminars that you want to attend. 70 vouchers have been made available for each of the 28 seminars on offer. The remaining 40-50 seats will be available on a first come, first serve basis as in previous years.

Please remember that you have pre-booked vouchers they will need to be exchanged for a ticket at least one hour before the seminar takes place. You can exchange your vouchers in the Queen’s Suite of Harrogate International Centre. Bookings can be made through the website, by calling Rachael on 01347 833800 (option 3) or completing the booking form in the Continue to Learn brochure.

The closing date for bookings is Friday 11 January 2013. We look forward to seeing you all in Harrogate.

BIGGA James Bond Evening

If you haven’t planned your Tuesday night entertainment for BTME why not join BIGGA at the James Bond Evening? Held at The Old Swan Hotel from 7.00 pm you will be treated to all the Bond classics and also a visit to BTME’s own James Bond world during the show.

Pre-register for BTME 2013

Why not start your year off with a visit to BTME 2013? You can still pre-register to avoid the queues, visit www.btme.org.uk and click on the ‘Register Now’ button. Opening times for BTME 2013 are:

- Tuesday 22nd January 2013 – 9am – 5pm
- Wednesday 23rd January 2013 – 9am – 4pm
- Thursday 24th January 2013 – 9am – 4pm

If you have previously used the Park and Ride, please note this will not be in operation for 2013. For a full list of our car parks in Harrogate visit www.btme.org.uk or see pages 23 of this issue. The hopper service will still be in use.

BIGGA Stand – B23

Remember to plan a visit to the BIGGA Stand to meet the BIGGA Team and find information on:

- Membership and Merchandise
- Member Services and Benefits
- Learning and Development
- Sections and Regions, meet your Regional Administrator and Section Committee Members

We will also have information on CourseTracker, the free new digital business management tool for golf courses, developed by the R&A plus an offer where BIGGA members can take advantage of offers from SkyCaddie. Please note: The Showfloor Theatre will not now be appearing at BTME 2013 as previously stated in this column.

BIGGA Annual General Meeting

The BIGGA AGM, open to all Members of BIGGA (only FULL Members are entitled to vote) will be held on Wednesday 23rd January 2013 at 5.15pm in the Queen’s Suite, remember to bring your membership card with you, if you are unable to attend and wish to send your apologies please email membership@bigga.co.uk or visit the BIGGA Stand during the show.

Personal Accident Insurance Cover for FULL Members

As part of the membership benefits BIGGA cover all FULL members for personal accident insurance. This means that if any full member has an accident, at work, at home, or even playing sport and is off work through that injury they can potentially claim through the personal accident insurance.

The insurance provides cover for accidental bodily injury which results in death, loss of limbs or sight, hearing and speech, permanent disability or temporary disability. There are additional payments for medical expenses, funeral expenses, hospitalisation, bodily injury resulting in a coma, retraining and relatives travel expenses.

Temporary total disability is a weekly compensation resulting from bodily injury which temporarily prevents you from carrying out the whole of your occupational duties, e.g. you may have an accident whilst playing football which means you are unable to go to work, so amount of £25 (increased in 2012 from £35), please note there is no amount payable for the first 4 weeks.

B\IGGA Membership

The membership team reflect on current news and affairs affecting you, the BIGGA member.

Happy New Year and Welcome to 2013

- Fire Risk Assessment
- Keeping a clean shed
- TI creeping bentgrass
- File sharing
- Rain water harvesting

Why not pay your membership subscription monthly?

If you want to pay for your membership subscription monthly then why not join our direct debit scheme, if you choose to pay by monthly direct debit you can pay over 1, 5 or 10 instalments spread over the duration of your subscription. There is a small administration charge involved but if you pay by this method your membership will continue year on year.

Keep up to date instantly with Facebook and Twitter

Keep up to date with all that’s happening BIGGA wise on Face book and Twitter. You can find us on Twitter on @BIGGALtd and search for British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association Ltd (BIGGA) Facebook group. Information on all the membership benefits and services can be found at www.bigga.co.uk and log into the members area.

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Join BIGGA and start to enjoy the benefits of the world’s largest golf greenskeeping association.

Why not take up the challenge?

BIGGA Round 2013

Time: 3pm 2nd May 2013
Place: The Elms
Sing with BIGGA and the Little Mix perform as the breakers.

BIGGA Networking Night

Date: 19th March 2013
Venue: York House
Theme: Autumn Rush

Contact Details

GOLD KEY SPONSORS

Golf Key Individual Members:
Bryan Taylor MG, Oystertown, ML
Andrew Campbell MG, CGCS
in Medinah, IL, Ryan Andrew Turf, WJ
Chiglison, Donington, East Berkshire
Silver Key Individual Members:
Steve Down, Richard McVean, Chairman
CGCS, Southside GC, Northants
Paul Jenkins, Justin Cheung
Graham Wiley, Michael Beaton,
Nick Gray, Sam Langrick, Espen Bergmann,
Ian MacMillan MG, Ian Morrison
Sponsors is used to fund BIGGA programs and events. The education offerings range from 30 minutes in length to 2 days and everything in between. You can view the full programme on the BTME website www.btme.org.uk.

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