Learning & Development

Sami Strutt, BIGGA Learning & Development Manager, with an update on education issues

Every year I wonder where the first two months of the year go, when my feet finally touch the ground I realise that it’s March already. This year it has been especially busy as Lee Strutt and I got married the day after returning from the Golf Industry Show in San Diego! After almost 20 years in the industry as Sami Collins, I’ll now be known as Sami Strutt so don’t go ignoring my emails and phone calls thinking “I have no idea who that is!”

Golf Industry Show

The Golf Industry Show made a welcome return to San Diego in February. BIGGA were represented by Jim Croxton, Tony Smith (Chairman) and myself along with the BIGGA Delegation in association with Bernhard Co. Although the weather was not what was expected in Southern California, the show delivered a full array of education and exhibitors.

Many familiar faces visited the BIGGA stand to discuss possible career opportunities. The able assistance of ten of the boys from the delegation we handled enquiries about the services that BIGGA offers as well as selling a couple of memberships in the process.

For the delegation it was a full-on week with almost every minute filled. We did however manage to fit in a couple of birthday celebrations one evening for Mesara Norsworthy and Parker, with the able assistance of some Hooters Girls (young and slightly older versions – no comments please boys!).

The annual meeting with GCSEA’s education team was as informative as ever with discussions taking place regarding the education offered at our shows and how this can be enhanced, administration matters (boring for most but invaluable for us!) and exchanges of ideas to improve what we do. A big thanks to the BIGGA delegation for your company and I hope you have now all recovered!

Future Turf Managers Initiative

Applications for the inaugural Future Turf Managers Conference are now closed with 45 applicants vying for 20 places. The selection process will have taken place by the time you read this and next month I will report on who’s been successful.

BIGGA Membership

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

Membership of BIGGA enjoys members with the resources and connections to progress their career. Thanks to BIGGA’s Gold and Silver Key Fund contributors BIGGA are able to allocate funding to enhance professional development by offering financial support, training aids and a CPD scheme to members.

• Save money by receiving your own monthly copy of Greenkeeper International (GI) as part of your membership, a monthly round up of the latest news, views and technical articles from the turf Industry.
• Gain access to enhanced member-only content by logging into the members area on the BIGGA website.
• Take advantage of education funding through - Refund of fees - Subsidies - Higher education scholarship
• Take advantage of Assistant Development Seminars - “So You Want to Be Promoted – Essential Skills for your Career Development” is being delivered by experienced Head Greenkeepers/Course Managers across BIGGA’s 26 sections. Look out on the Events Section on the BIGGA website for dates and information.
• Register for CPD – by planning and reflecting on your learning experiences you can enhance your development and, advancing your career.

The benefits of membership are not just there when you are looking to further your career, members also have personal benefits including accessing to -

• Legal helpline – access to legal help and advice 24/7.
• When you have a legal problem it can often be a highly stressful time of your life. It is often difficult to know who you can talk to and the cost of getting the advice that you need can often be expensive. As a benefit of BIGGA Membership members have access to the Legal Assistance insurance package arranged by Gallagher Heath, access to a comprehensive legal helpline that offers advice on a wide range of legal services.

The legal helpline is provided by Irwin Mitchell, one of the top 10 UK law firms. The helpline is operated by a team of dedicated advisors, all legally qualified to give you the legal advice that you require. The typical areas of law that the legal helpline can give advice on are:

• Family law
• Employment law
• Property law
• Consumers

Full Members Personal Accident Insurance

This insurance provides cover for accidental bodily injury which occurs during the operative time of cover 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, remaining and relatives travel expenses.

Lifestyle Counselling Helpline and Online Support is available to all BIGGA Members and their families

This upgraded service for all BIGGA Members and members of their immediate family living at the same address can help with a range of problems from practical everyday matters to sensitive or emotional issues. Specialists will help members deal with personal relationship problems, problems with colleagues in the workplace and other issues affecting their general wellbeing.

Counsellors and information specialists are also trained to help members with practical problems like debt.

The helpline is complimented by a comprehensive online information and support service, through which members can access information and advice on a range of issues and problems which often impact on everyday life. Topics are diverse and include relationships, childcare issues, consumer issues, stress and health and fitness. Information is updated regularly by a team of experienced counsellors and information specialists.

The Lifestyle Counselling Helpline and online information support service can be contacted 24/7. Log in to the members area for details.

With almost 6,000 BIGGA members, you can afford not to be a part of Europe’s largest greenkeeping organisation.