



## This month, Tracey Maddison, BIGGA's Membership Services Officer, welcomes over 90 new members to the Association, and gives some important renewal information

### Renew your membership for increased benefits!

In September, over 90 new members joined BIGGA and became part of the largest greenkeeping association in Europe. Membership has grown in strength and now boasts almost 7,200 members. If your expiry date is 31 December 2000 or 31 January 2001, your renewal pack will be with you this month. Read it! It contains important information on improvements to your benefits.

Watch out for your renewal envelope dropping through your letterbox later this month.

New benefits for members for 2001 include a health care scheme. You can choose a plan that most suits your lifestyle, you elect to pay a weekly or monthly sum to cover you for the cost of minor medical treatments not normally covered by the NHS. In this way you will always have the funds to pay for dental treatment, glasses or contact

lenses, physiotherapy and a whole host of other treatments including consultation by a specialist. By ensuring that you have the funds you can ensure that you have the treatment when you most need it as opposed to when you can afford it.

#### Be a BIGGA winner!

Also, in your renewal pack will be two yellow application forms, pass them on to your greenkeeping colleagues, who are not already members, and encourage them to become part of BIGGA. Each month, if you introduce one new member, your name will be placed into a draw to win £50 worth of vouchers to spend in a popular high street store.

**Watch out for December's Membership Update for details on another exciting new membership benefit.**

### BIGGA welcomes...

#### Scottish Region

Steven J Amott, Ayrshire  
Craig Davidson, East  
Graeme Davidson, East  
Logan J Ferguson, East  
William Fulton, Ayrshire  
Kevin A S Neilson, East  
Ian J Williams, East  
Steven Wilson, Ayrshire

#### Northern Region

Richard Allen, N West  
Matthew J Bulmer, Northern  
Anthony J Carr, N East  
Peter L Cotgreave, N West  
Grant Dougherty, N West  
Stephen Eccles, N West  
Andrew D Ellis, Northern  
John P T Evans, N West  
John Grimes, N West  
Ethan Moses, N West  
Michael Rogers, Northern  
Andrew M Stingsby, Northern  
Tony Smith, N West  
Richard G Wilson, N West

#### Midland Region

Andrew Bailey, Midland  
Philip Chiverton, BB&O  
Peter Hobbs, Mid Anglia

Devlyne Hodgkiss, Midland  
Martin Huckle, Mid Anglia  
Melwyn L Labram, Mid Anglia  
Darren J Reeve, Mid Anglia  
Anthony P Rudge, Midland  
Adrian Sharratt, Midland  
Robert Spikings, Mid Anglia  
Graeme W Stevenson, Midland  
Stefan J Timworth, E Midland  
Christopher J Yeomans, Mid Anglia

#### South East Region

Paul M W Bacon, Surrey  
David S Badham, London  
David Beale, Essex  
Jason J Bradbury, Surrey  
Steve Brennan, London  
Peter J Brooker, Surrey  
Mark D Couch, Surrey  
Tim Daniel, Sussex  
Andrew Duffy, Sussex  
Meyrick J Field, Surrey  
Neil Gibson, London  
Chris Guy, E Anglia  
Nicholas Guy, E Anglia  
Richard P Hare, Essex  
Richard J Hayward, London  
Robert J Kemp, London  
Michael G Kyriacou, London  
Gary Leggatt, Sussex  
Robert J Newson, Essex  
Matthew Short, Surrey

Barry J Smith, Surrey  
Rob S Thomson, London  
Kevin Westney, London  
Michael Wilding, E Anglia

#### S West & S Wales Region

Andrew J Brown, S Coast  
Graham C Burbidge, Dev & C'wall  
Ryan J Church, S Coast  
Danny P Corson, S Coast  
Matthew D Driffiths, S Wales  
Patrick Jackman, S Wales

#### Northern Ireland

Lee M Cartmill  
Mark Cassidy  
Damien Doherty  
Adam Kelly  
Scott Otley  
Irwin Robinson  
Ivan J Ward

#### Republic of Ireland

Donal Kearney

#### International Members

Michael Ortegren, Sweden  
Dirk Josef Thelen, Madeira  
Shawn W Semones, USA

John Berry, Australia

#### Associate Members

John A Souter, Central  
Kevin Kinzer, E Midland  
Nigel Kirkup, E England  
Dawn Magan, E England  
Jonathan T Wood, E Midland  
A Atilla Demirsoy, Essex  
David Maclaren, London  
Terence Welch, London  
Paul Burroughes, S Coast  
Stephen Clifford, Dev & C'wall  
Jeremy A Dunn, S West  
Gareth D Jenkins, S Wales

#### Student Members

Darren Kilby, London  
Roxanne E Roberts, S West

Check out December's edition for October's new members!



## BIGGA's Education and Training Manager, Ken Richardson reports on the latest education and training developments

# INDIVIDUAL LEARNING ACCOUNTS

#### What are they?

To enable all of you to help pay for education and training, the Government have introduced a scheme called Individual Learning Accounts. Supported by a range of Training Providers, the Accounts are designed to make it easier for you to start and continue learning.

#### Who can have an account?

Accounts can be opened by anyone aged 19 or over.

#### How do I open an account?

You need to obtain an application form by phoning 0800 0725678 in England or 0800 100900 in Scotland or 01792 354126 in Wales or ask your college or other training provider. You should return the completed form to the Individual Learning Account Centre which handles your account. The form asks if you have opened an account before, asks for information on citizenship, asks for your date of birth, personal information and information on your own learning.

#### What do I get from an account?

Once you have opened an account you will be able to claim discounts on a range of learning, eg. If you are one of the first million to open an account, you will get a £150 contribution

towards the cost of your course if you contribute £25. If you are not in the first million account holders, you can claim a 20% discount on a wide range of work related learning up to a maximum of £100 in any one year. You may even be eligible for an 80% discount, up to a maximum of £200, on some types of learning eg. computer training courses and key skills in maths.

#### How will the scheme work for me?

Many of BIGGA's Regional Training Courses could, in the future, be eligible for ILA discounts, which together with BIGGA's Education and Development Fund subsidies to BIGGA members, will ensure quality training provision at even lower costs.

#### Are there any courses that are not eligible for discounts?

You will not be able to claim discounts on:

Graduate or post graduate courses.  
Courses that you have started already.  
Learning for which you have already received government help.  
Leisure or sports courses.

#### How can I find out whether the course that I want is eligible for discounts?

You can find out by asking the training provider eg college, BIGGA etc. or

by phoning the Individual Learning Account Centre on 08000 725678

#### How do I claim discounts?

Once you have opened your account, you will then need to contact your chosen learning provider. The learning provider will then:

Check your account details with the Individual Learning Account Centre.  
Confirm your enrolment and eligibility for a discount.  
Take the payment for your own contribution.  
Claim your discount entitlement from the Individual Learning Account Centre.

Don't delay, contact your Individual Learning Account Centre, request an application form and look for discounts on your learning courses.

#### BIGGA HOUSE and Regional Training Courses

Following a very poor response for this year's BIGGA HOUSE Courses, we have been forced to cancel all advertised courses except the Making Budgets Work week which runs from 16 to 19 October.

Regional Courses cancelled are Making Meetings Work on 22/23 November at Stirling. Interviews and Appraisals on 11/12 December at Huntingdon and Ornamental Horticulture on 29 November at Ham Manor.

Making Budgets Count at the East

Cliff Hotel, Bournemouth will now be held on 15/16 February 2001 and not on 19/20 February 2001

#### The Learning Experience 2001

Bookings have started to arrive at BIGGA HOUSE for the Learning Experience 2001, which, once again, will be held with the support of Textron Turf Care and Specialty Products, in Harrogate, North Yorkshire.

Starting with the National Education Conference and Workshop Programmes which are being held in the Majestic Hotel on Monday 22 and Tuesday 23 January 2001, the Learning Experience continues with the joint BIGGA/SRTI Course, Running Golf Courses in the 21st Century, held in the Crown Hotel, followed by the BTME Seminar Programme, which starts in the Royal Hall on Wednesday 24 January.

Full information on all of the Harrogate Learning Opportunities can be found in the Learning Experience brochure which can be obtained from BIGGA HOUSE.

Please note that due to a production problem there is an error on the Bed and Breakfast section of the Learning Experience booking form. The dates should read: Sunday 21, Monday 22, Tuesday 23, Wednesday 24 and Thursday 25 January.