

# Education



## Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund

**BIGGA GOLDEN KEY and SILVER KEY MEMBERSHIP**

Unlock the doors to progress through BIGGA's Education and Development Fund - the key to a great future for greenkeepers, golf clubs and the game of golf.

Golden and Silver Key Membership is available to both companies and individuals.

For details, please contact Neil Thomas on 01347 833800 or via [neil@bigga.co.uk](mailto:neil@bigga.co.uk)

### Golden Key Supporters



### Golden Key Company Members

Company	Tel: Head Office
Bernhard and Company Ltd	01788 811600
Gem Professional	01254 356611
John Deere Ltd	01949 860491
Hayter Ltd	01279 723444
Massey Ferguson (AGCO Ltd)	02476 851292
PGA European Tour	01344 842881
Rigby Taylor Ltd	01204 377777
Scotts UK Professional	01473 830492
Ransomes Jacobsen Ltd	01473 270000
The Toro Company/Lely UK	01202 319987
TurfTrax Group Ltd	01722 434000

### Golden Key Individual Members

J H Fry; J H Greasley; WJ Rogers; David S Robinson; Stuart Townsend; Douglas Smith; Andrew Cornes; Andy Campbell MG, CGCS; Roger Barker

### Silver Key Supporters



### Silver Key Company Members

Company	Tel: Head Office
Ernest Doe & Sons	01254 380311
General Legal Protection Ltd	01904 611600
Heath Lambert Group	0113 246 1313
Ocmis Irrigation	01460 241939
RainBird	01273 891326
Syngenta Professional Products	0041 613 233 028

### Silver Key Individual Members

Clive A Archer; John Crawford; Bruce Cruickshank; Douglas G Duguid; Alan Holmes; Kenneth Jones; Iain A MacLeod; Robert Maibusch MG; Richard S Mullen; Elliott R Small; Steven Tierney; CJ Yeaman; Richard Lawrence; Clive Osgood; David Robinson; Richard Stillwell; Stephen Dixon

With Christmas fast approaching, Sami and I are working hard to clear our desks before the Festive Break. At the end of a busy year, we can look back at a great deal of success, seeing far more greenkeepers entering formal and informal education and training, at least one new Master Greenkeeper joining the group of 32 and the continuing successful co-operation between BIGGA and the GTC. The end of the year does not mean the end of our work, however, and we have been working hard to bring you the the education and training opportunities that you have asked for.

## Continue to Learn

Continue to Learn, the largest education and training event for greenkeepers, Golf Course Managers, Golf Course Superintendents, Golf Club Managers and fine turf experts will be held from 20 to 23 January 2003, in Harrogate.

Starting with the Workshop Programme, Education Conference and the STRI - Running Golf Courses in the 21st Century. The programme has something for everyone. Moreover, with flexible access, delegates have more choices than ever.

Learn how to hire, fire and manage staff at the Conference on Monday 20 January, discover the latest golf course management techniques on the second day or gain an insight into the intricacies of golf course management at the STRI Managing Golf Course in the 21st Century Course on Monday 20 and Tuesday 21 January. Together with workshops on Soil Science, Environmental Management, Golf Course Design and the Master Greenkeeper Scheme, the first two days of Continue to Learn, supported by John Deere, have something for everyone.

Tuesday 21 January sees the start of the BTME and ClubHouse Exhibitions which include, for the first time, a Careers Fair, supported by TORO, where you can access information on careers in greenkeeping and golf course management, golf club management, further and higher education, professional golf, agronomy,

machinery sales and maintenance, and the chemical industry. Add the always popular Careers Clinic and this stand in Hall Q is a must for all delegates to both the BTME and ClubHouse Exhibitions.

Another first for January 2003 is the introduction of an Education and Training stand in Hall M, where you can book your Seminar session, watch a demonstration of OnCourse Golf Course Management software, check on the availability of training in your Region, collect a copy of the BIGGA Field Guides or discuss your education and training plan.

The BTME/ClubHouse Seminars will be held in the Royal Hall. Following suggestions from previous delegates, we have introduced several changes that should make the experience even better. We intend to improve the seating by increasing leg room, however, this will mean less seats so book early. Each session costs a maximum of £5 with several session completely free of charge. Each session will be 'stand alone' and the Hall will be cleared at the end of each session. Sessions are concentrated around the middle of the day, allowing delegates plenty of time to visit both shows.

If you have not received details of Continue to Learn then contact Sami or myself at BIGGA House. Remember, the deadline for all Continue to Learn bookings is 8 January 2003.

## Regional Training

This Autumn and Winter Regional Training Courses are almost complete but there is still time to book your place onto a course in the Spring. Places are available on the following courses:

February 11 & 12	Chainsaw Maintenance and Croscutting	Stirling
February 12 & 13	The New Supervisor	Newark Golf Club
February 19 & 20	Further Management Skills	Manchester Airport
February 19 & 20	Basic Computer Skills	Old Fold Manor GC
February 26	Abrasive Wheels	De Vere Carden Park
February 26 & 27	Further Management Skills	Luton Airport
March 4 & 5	Further Computer Skills	Berkhamsted GC
March 4 & 5	Project Management	Ross on Wye GC
March 4 & 5	Coaching Skills	Potters Bar GC
March 4 & 5	Management Skills for Course Managers	De Vere Carden Park
March 4 & 5	Presenting a Professional Image	De Vere Carden Park
April 16 & 17	Budgets and Finance	De Vere Carden Park

Each one day course costs £30 + VAT and each two day course costs £60 + VAT. Remember that Golden Key Companies are offering £30 training vouchers to their customers.

# OnCourse

BIGGA has been joined by Cobalt Concepts to sell OnCourse Golf Course Management software in the UK. Selling for just over a year in the UK the OnCourse Management package is now being used at 10 golf courses and at 14 colleges. Designed by greenkeepers for greenkeepers, the package has a range of facilities to help you to manage your golf course including:

- Staff Records
- Time Sheets
- Supplier Database
- Machinery Inventory and Service information
- Stock Inventory
- Golf Course Details
- Golf Course Maintenance
- Diary of Events
- Budgets and Finance
- Report Generation

Each module links to all other modules and updates any changes. For further information, contact me at BIGGA House or visit the BIGGA Education Stand in Hall M or the Cobalt Concepts Stand in Hall D, at the BTME and ClubHouse Exhibitions, where you can also see demonstrations of OnCourse.

## Liaison Officers

The GTC is still looking for liaison officers. The Role of Liaison Officers is to:

- Liaise with GTC Headquarters on any matters affecting greenkeepers training
- Be the GTC representative within designated areas of the country, to visit Training Provider Centres twice each year and communicate with greenkeeping lecturers and students.
- To attend liaison meetings at Training Provider Centres
- To act as a GTC advisor.
- To co-ordinate moderation meetings for assessors.
- To attend annual update meetings at GTC HQ.

Liaison Officers are still required in the following areas: Cumbria and Lancashire; Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire; Devon and Cornwall; Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk; Dorset; Gloucestershire and Wiltshire; Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire; Leicestershire and Northamptonshire; Shropshire and Herefordshire; Bedfordshire; Cheshire and Isle of Man and Warwickshire and Worcestershire

These are part-time posts and attract payment of £12 per hour and 40p per mile expenses.

Anyone interested in becoming a GTC Liaison Officer should contact the GTC on 01347 838640.

Sami and Ken wish all of their readers a very Happy Christmas and we look forward to seeing you in Harrogate next month.

## Free Money for Health and Safety

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has launched a pilot scheme to help small businesses to improve their health and safety standards. It aims to help plug the Health and Safety gap by providing businesses with matched funding of up to £1000. The Small Firms Assistance Scheme is open to those thinking of starting a new business and small companies with fewer than 10 employees. Companies must have an annual turnover

not exceeding £4,500,000 or an annual balance sheet not exceeding £3,200,000. Pilot areas are West Yorkshire, Essex and Devon and Cornwall. For further information contact the local Business Link:

West Yorkshire 0113 3837733

Essex 01245 241400

Devon and Cornwall 0845 6009966.



Address letters to: **Scott MacCallum, Editor, Greenkeeper International, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF**, or email them to: [scott@bigga.co.uk](mailto:scott@bigga.co.uk)

### How can we Progress?

Am I the only reader to see the connection between the Neil Thomas' piece (November issue page 19) and that incredible feature on St Andrews Bay project (pages 14-18)? We note that the owner of this project, Dr Panos, laid down his prime remit that they "have to maintain the golf course with stripes and make them green". This surely says it all! Admittedly Neil Ballingall does not claim that his courses are links. Planting 30,000 trees proves this! The whole project is a travesty of good greenkeeping and traditional standards. The site is no more exposed and subject to much less traffic than scores in the same area. Ryegrass fairways forsooth. There is an old (Scottish) proverb that you cannot play a golf shot off a football pitch. Ryegrasses (dwarf or not) are not golf grasses. They are not natural and never blend with native species to form fine turf. Neil (Thomas) comments, as I have for decades, on the iniquity of Chairmen of Green sacking competent head greenkeepers because they want to impose their ideas (stripes and lush green) over sound good practices. I note an article 16 years ago pointing out that the real enemies of greenkeeping were yobs and yuppies. They start playing at an age too

advanced to receive a clip on the ear when transgressing rules and traditions. Their ambition is to be Captain - and they will use any step on the ladder to achieve it. They will take no advice yet listen to all the latest gimmicks and if opposed, move the earth to move the offender. I know! It is not only head men who are wrongfully sacked (and what paltry compensation is awarded those who win wrongful dismissal claims). I have had my share - a brief note from a secretary (after 30 years of advisory connection with the Club) to say "so and so is now our adviser with immediate effect. Thank you for your past help". Not even management programmes with constitutionally backed authority can save those who speak their minds and expose "new golfers". Whether you are a traditionalist (as I and many others are), or an opportunist prepared to prostitute science to commerce the news is that new golfer is your enemy and exposing him risks the sack. How can we progress in this atmosphere?

**J. H. Arthur**  
Honorary Member  
Budleigh Salterton