

The Education and Training Department is entering its busiest time of the year as we are in the middle of the regional training winter programme and Continue to Learn approaches ever faster.



## Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund

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

### 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
Textron Turf Care	01473 270000
The Toro Company/Lely UK	01202 319987
TurfTrax Group Ltd	01722 434000

### Golden Key Individual Members

Mike Eastwood; 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

## Regional Training

There are still places left on the following Regional Training Courses.

### Regional Training 2002

COURSE	LOCATION	DATE
Essential Management Skills	Luton Airport	18 and 19 November
Ride on Mower Maintenance	Gosforth Golf Club	20 November
Health & Safety at Work	Ham Manor Golf Club	20 and 21 November
Soil Science	De Vere Carden Park	26 November
Manual Handling & Risk Assess	Stirling	27 and 28 November
Risk Assessment	Brookmans Park GC	4 December
Ride on Mower Maintenance	Southerndown Golf Club	5 December
Essential Management Skills	Manchester Airport	12 and 13 December

### Regional Training 2003

Chainsaw Maintenance	Aucherterder GC	11 and 12 February
The New Supervisor	Newark Golf Club	12 and 13 February
Further Management Skills	Manchester Airport	19 and 20 February
Basic Computer Skills	Old Fold Manor Golf Club	19 and 20 February
Abrasive Wheels	De Vere Carden Park	26 February
Further Management Skills	Luton Airport	26 and 27 February
Further Computer Skills	Berkhamsted Golf Club	4 and 5 March
Project Management	Ross on Wye Golf Club	5 and 6 March
Coaching Skills	Potters Bar Golf Club	6 and 7 March
Management Skills for Head		
Greenkeepers and Course Mgrs	De Vere Carden Park	18 and 19 March
Basic Computer Skills	Southerndown Golf Club	18 and 19 March
Presenting a Professional Image	De Vere Carden Park	20 March
Budgets & Finance	De Vere Carden Park	16 and 17 April

Each one day course, for BIGGA members, costs £30 and each two day course costs £60, thanks to contributors to the BIGGA Education and Development Fund. However, all Golden Key Company members have been issued with £30 training vouchers for issue to their customers, which could give you a day of training at no cost.

If you want further information on any of the above or courses or want to check if there still places available then contact Ken or Sami at BIGGA HOUSE.

## Continue to learn

Application forms have been arriving at BIGGA House, since early October, and some Education Sessions are filling up fast. There is, also, a heavy demand for places at the Exhibitions Banquet, where the numbers are limited. Make sure that you do not miss out by completing your application form and sending it to BIGGA House today.

Remember that BTME Seminar Session costs only £5 per session and that BIGGA Training Vouchers may be used to pay or help to pay for all Continue to Learn Education and Training sessions.

There are two additions to the programme for Continue to Learn 2003. These are the Careers Fair and a Master Greenkeeper Seminar.

The Master Greenkeeper Seminar takes place on Tuesday 20 January, in the Majestic Hotel. If you have considered trying to become a Master Greenkeeper or are in the

Scheme and want to get more information on how to progress then this seminar is for you. Presented by Master Greenkeeper, Examiners and the BIGGA Education and Training Manager, this free session is bound to be popular.

The Careers Fair has been introduced for 2003 to expand on the very popular Careers Clinic, which has been held at BTME, for the last three years. Brin and Frank will, again, be there to answer your questions on CVs, Letters of Application and Negotiation, both in group session and individual sessions. Additionally, you will be able to find out about careers in all parts of the Industry including Greenkeeping and Golf Course Management, becoming a Professional Golfer, careers in Agronomy, careers in Further and Higher Education, and careers in the Fine Turf Industry. The Careers Fair will be situated in Hall Q. There will also be a job vacancies section where you may find the job that you are looking for.

## Refund of Fees Scheme

Remember, that in addition to the BIGGA Scholarships, supported by Ransomes/Jacobsen, BIGGA members may apply for an 80% refund of education and training fees up to a maximum of £250. Members must have paid for the course ie. not golf clubs and refunds are paid on completion of the course. For full details and an application form contact Sami at BIGGA House.

## Greenkeeper Training Committee Health and Safety Wall Chart

The GTC has sent copies of their Health and Safety Wall Chart to all Golf Clubs in the UK and Ireland. The Wall Charts, which were sent to Golf Club Secretaries, have been designed for Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers to record the training of their staff and when they become competent in operating machinery and other equipment on the golf course. The Wall Charts were sent to Golf Club Secretaries to raise their awareness and that of the employer to the importance of staff training and the recording of competence.

Each pack contains a wall chart, pens and coloured dots plus guidance on how the chart should be used. Any Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper who has not received a copy of the Wall Chart should contact their Club Secretary. If the Secretary cannot help then contact the GTC on 01347 838640.

Watch out for the introduction of individual records of training and competence which will complement the GTC Wall Chart. They will be issued by BIGGA in early 2003.

## BIGGA Education and Training Scholarships supported by Ransomes/Jacobsen

**RANSOMES  
JACOBSEN** LTD

A Textron Company

Thanks to generous support from Ransomes/Jacobsen, BIGGA has been able to award its first Higher Education Scholarships.

Designed to help greenkeeper members of BIGGA move into higher education, scholarships are awarded for those studying for the award of S/NVQ Level 4, Higher National Certificate, Higher National Diploma, Bachelors Degree and Masters Degree. Scholarships are available to those members starting their course in 2002.

Scholarships awarded so far are:  
Master of Science in Sports Surface Technology at Cranfield University.  
Peter Jones, Allan Blizzard, Ian Somerville and Barry Dore.  
Higher National Certificate at Elmwood College, Lee Bridge and Laurence McCrory, and at Pencoed College, Peter Lacey.  
NVQ Level 4 at Reaseheath College, Darryl Smethurst.

The amount of scholarship depends on the course being followed and on individual circumstances but, so far, a total of £7200 has been awarded.

Future editions of Greenkeeper International will look at the progress being made by each scholar.



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)**

### Thanks for the Backing

Now that my recent wrongful redundancy case has almost come to an end, I would just like to thank Peter Boyd for his backing throughout the last 20 months, which was a great help to me. If I can be of any assistance to you or any other member regarding this type of situation do not hesitate to contact me.

**Derek Green**  
Inverurie, Aberdeenshire

### Great Idea in Theory

After recently reading a couple of articles, one by Richard Windows of the STRI in September's edition of Greenkeeper International, and the other by Gordon Child, in September's edition of the GTC's On Course, I feel I must take issue with the subject matter.

Both articles were championing the benefits of early aeration work, such as vertidrainage, hollow coring, overseeding, top dressing etc, suggesting that this work could take place for a couple of weeks in August as opposed to October. Great idea in theory, but how are small golf clubs with a small staff, tight budget and a lack of machinery supposed to achieve this?

At my club there is a greenstaff of four and if we attempted this type of maintenance programme in August it would be all hands to the pump. Does the grass stop growing and divot holes fill in by themselves during these two weeks, or however long it takes? As for Mr Child's suggestion that we make more use of the long daylight hours, a tight overtime budget

and a lack of finance to hire in extra staff wouldn't allow this. It is a big enough problem trying to get finance for decent wages, modern machinery, and renovation and construction projects, unless your club has a membership in excess of 800, which ours doesn't.

I noticed that Mr Windows writing about minimal disruption to the playing surface and of higher temperatures and intense sunlight aiding a quick recovery. There could be a drought shortly after the completion of the work and if, like our club, you don't have an irrigation system, you would be in real bother.

Also, what about the golfers? Golfers in this part of the country don't want their season disrupted in August and extended into October. Having discussed this subject with our members they made it clear they don't want disruption to the playing surface in August and, being a keen golfer myself, I agree with them. I have always carried out deep aeration work in early October and we have never had a problem with it as we have always had successful results.

Disregarding the wishes of members - your employers - is a risky game as it is they who pay the wages. Then again, maybe this isn't a proactive enough attitude for some people, but that's another story.

As I mentioned earlier, it's a great idea in theory, but Gordon Child doesn't speak on behalf of all Greenkeepers/Course Managers. He speaks on behalf of the ones employed by wealthy golf clubs, where staffing and financial resources are not a problem. He certainly doesn't speak on behalf of me.

**Sidney Mercer**  
Head Greenkeeper, Skelmorlie GC, Ayrshire