



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 |
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| Gem Professional | 01254 356611 |
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| 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 |

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| RainBird | 01273 891326 |
| Syngenta Professional Products | 0041 613 233 028 |
| Wolf Proline | 01495 306600 |

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Clive A Archer; John Crawford; Bruce Cruickshank; Douglas G Duguid; Alan Holmes; Robert Malbusch MG; Richard S Mullen; Elliott R Small; Steven Tierney; CJ Yeaman; Richard Lawrence; Clive Osgood; David Robinson; Richard Stillwell; Stephen Dixon; Ian Semple; Paul Jenkins

The BIGGA Golf Environment Competition 2003

Thanks to the continued support of the R&A and sponsorship by Scotts UK Professional and Syngenta Professional Products, BIGGA is pleased to announce the launch of the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition 2003.



THE AIM OF THE COMPETITION IS TO:

- Develop greenkeeper and club awareness of the need and benefits of environmental and turfgrass management.
- Demonstrate to the general public and conservation bodies the level of support for environmental issues that exist within the golf industry.
- Generate awareness of environmental achievements of the golf industry.
- Educate the general public and conservation bodies about the positive role of golf in the environment through promotional articles in the press, on television and on radio.


JUDGING

- BIGGA will distribute invitations to enter the Competition, to all golf clubs in Great Britain, during late March/early April.
- All golf clubs wishing to enter the Competition will be sent application forms during April/May.
- The STRI will consider each entry and select ten clubs to be visited by an STRI Agronomist, comprising two from each judging area i.e. (Scotland, N. England, Wales, SE. England and SW. England). Additionally, three clubs will be selected from across all five areas for each of the Best Newcomer and the Best Overall Initiative Awards. Thus 16 clubs will be visited in total.

- Each of the clubs will be assessed on two main criteria (nature conservation and turfgrass management) plus five additional criteria (landscape and cultural heritage, water resource management, pest management, communications, and education/training). For those clubs assessed in the Best Overall Initiative category, there will be particular emphasis on assessing the initiative itself.

BENEFITS TO GOLF CLUBS

- Every club entering the Competition will receive an information package from BIGGA, the STRI and the sponsors.
- Clubs not visited, as part of the judging process, will receive a short report from the STRI on the content of their application with general recommendations on how to progress further in the Competition in future years.
- All Clubs visited, as part of the judging process will be given advice, where necessary, by an STRI ecologist.
- Prizes will be awarded according to the prize scheme set out on the next page.
- Clubs that are of a high standard yet do not achieve Regional or National winner status will receive a Highly Commended Certificate.



Golf Environment Competition

PRIZES

The National Winner will receive a Scotts Weather Master weather station worth £2,500, a cheque for £2,000, the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition Trophy to hold for 12 months and a plaque to display in the Clubhouse.

Each of the other four Area Winners will receive a cheque for £500 and a plaque to display in the Clubhouse.

The Runner up in the Winner's judging area will receive a cheque for £500 and a plaque to display in the Clubhouse.

The Most Impressive Newcomer will receive a cheque for £500 and a plaque to display in the Clubhouse.

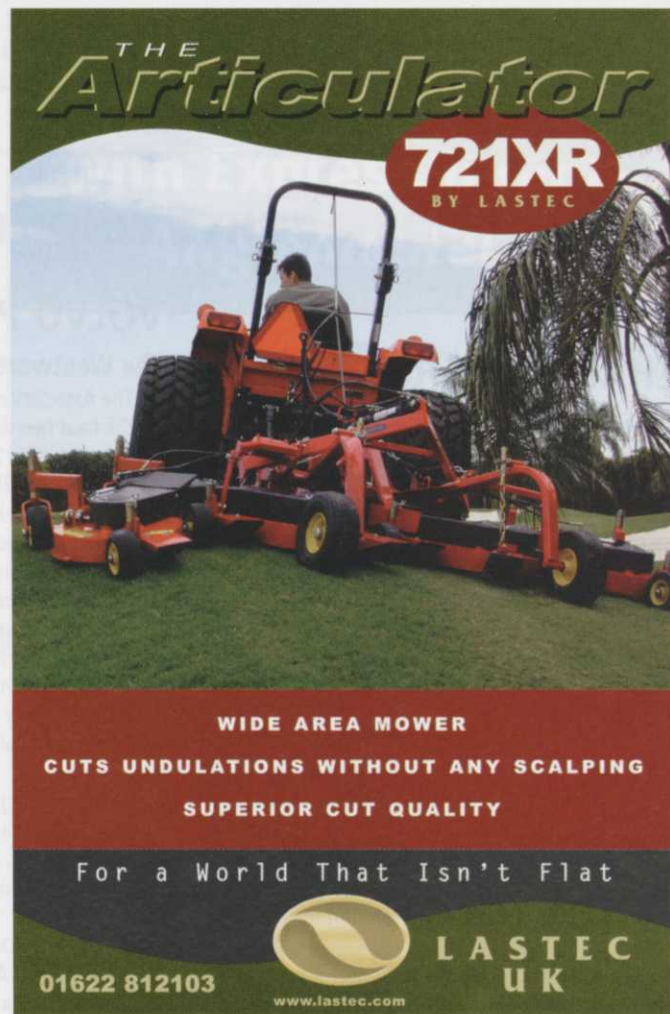
The Best Overall Environmental Initiative will receive a cheque for £500 and a plaque to display in the Clubhouse.

Matt Reed, Managing Director of Scotts UK Professional, said, "The potential of golf courses as important refuges for wildlife is becoming increasingly apparent. One of the key factors in our product development programme is to ensure minimum impact on the environment throughout our operations – from manufacture to application - and we are delighted to be able to extend further, this philosophy, into sponsorship of the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition."

Jose Milan, of co-sponsors Syngenta, said, "Golf is an industry and, like any industry in the 21st century, it must take its responsibilities, to the environment, seriously. Golf is in a fortunate position, as it has the potential to make a significant contribution to the preservation and enhancement of natural biodiversity, and we are pleased to be able to offer practical support through this sponsorship."

Neil Thomas, Executive Director of BIGGA, said, "The continued support of the R&A plus the generous sponsorship of Scotts UK Professional and Syngenta has ensured that BIGGA can continue to run this prestigious competition. The Competition encourages greenkeepers and club members to work together in furthering the environmental management of golf courses."

Gordon McKillop, Chief Executive of the STRI said, "The STRI is delighted to be involved in judging the Competition, again. Over the years, judging has become more and more difficult as the quality of entries continues to increase. This problem is one with which we are happy to contend. The results should serve to demonstrate, in particular to the non golfing public, the extent to which golf is an excellent custodian of the countryside."



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