

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

Golden Key Supporters



Golden Key Company Members

Company	Tel: Head Office
Gem Professional	01254 356611
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Massey Ferguson (AGCO Ltd)	02476 851292
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Rigby Taylor Ltd	01204 677777
Scotts UK Professional	01473 830492
Ransomes Jacobsen Ltd	01473 270000
The Toro Company/Lely UK	01202 319987
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A Huge Investment by BIGGA

Education and Training Manager, Ken Richardson, trumpets the amount the Association does for greenkeeper education and outlines some of the projects that are currently underway.

BIGGA has continued to invest, heavily, in greenkeeper education and training over the past year. The total spend is over £150 000, which means that we are spending an average of £25 per greenkeeper member on education, training and development.

This year has seen the largest, ever, subsidy to Regional Training, thanks to contributors to the BIGGA Education and Development Fund. Continue to Learn, at Harrogate, in January 2003, featured speakers from around the world and delegate fees started at £0, as some of the Seminar sessions were free of charge.

Working alongside the GTC and the GCSAI has enabled us to produce and distribute a careers CD ROM, which describes careers in greenkeeping and golf course management to those thinking about their future.

Thanks to a number of sponsors, we have been able to run the Golf Environment Competition, the Student of the Year Competition and the BIGGA Higher Education Scholarships Scheme, plus issue Machinery and Work Equipment Training Guides to all Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers.



Regional Training

The Autumn 2002 and Spring 2003 Regional Training Course Season is now over. Our initial plan was to run 28 courses but we have had to cancel nine. However, we were asked to run an extra 12 courses, making 31 courses altogether, which attracted 256 delegates.

Regional Courses at Manchester and Luton, again, attracted delegates from around the UK and Europe. Courses have included Basic Computer Skills, Soil Science, Abrasive Wheels, Chain Saw, Manual Handling, Health and Safety Awareness, Budgets and Finance, Presentations, First Aid, Essential Management Skills, Coaching Skills, Project Management, Reel Sharpening, Presenting a Professional Image and Further Management Skills.

The Education and Development Fund also supported the Scottish Education Conference, the Midlands Region Conference and the South West Region Conference.

It is now time to begin planning Regional Courses for Autumn 2003 and Spring 2004 and Regional Administrators and Section Secretaries have been asked to bid for training in their Regions and Sections. However, we can arrange training on most subjects in

all areas for members of BIGGA. All we need is the type of training required, a location where the training can take place and a minimum number of delegates e.g. four delegates for a Chain Saw Course, six delegates for a management skills course. The cost of courses will be held at the incredibly low rate of £30 (+VAT) for a one-day course and £60 (+VAT) for a two-day course. Moreover, as each day of training costs £800, the cost for ten delegates is £80 each. This means that each day of training is subsidised by at least £50. Therefore, you need to attend only two days of training per year to recover more than the cost of membership.

Make sure that you get the training that you need, at a location that is convenient to you, at a price that is way below the commercial rate, by contacting your Regional Administrator, your Section Secretary or by contacting Ken or Sami at BIGGA HOUSE.

Machinery and Work Equipment Training Manual

Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers in the UK, Ireland and mainland Europe should be receiving their copy of the Machinery and Work Equipment Training Manual sponsored by Ransomes Jacobsen by the end of this month. The printing has been delayed due to a number of factors beyond our control but printing is now complete. If your copy does not arrive by the end of May then please contact BIGGA House.





Golf Environment Competition

Thanks to continued support from the R&A, plus sponsorship from Scotts UK Professional and Syngenta Professional Products we have, again, been able to run the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition. Application forms have been sent to more than 100 golf clubs but there is still chance for you to enter. Simply contact BIGGA House and ask for an application form or download a form from our website.

Increased sponsorship has led to a greater number of prizes, with the winner receiving a Scotts Weather Master weather station and a cheque for £2,000. At the other extreme, the Best Newcomer will receive a cheque for £500.

Environmental Awards for Golf Operators

They say that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, which seems to be the case with an award from the Friends of Conservation called the Environmental Awards for Golf Operators. Supported by the UK Travel and Tourism Industry, Friends of Conservation have launched a competition to encourage wildlife friendly practices on golf courses. The first prize will be a cheque for £2,500. All submissions need to be supported by a recognised local wildlife/environmental/conservation body. Further details can be obtained from Friends of Conservation, 16-18 Denbigh Street, London, SW1V 2ER, 020 7828 4856, e-mail: info@foc-uk.com. Their website is: www.foc-uk.com



Toro Student of the Year Competition

The entry deadline for entries to this year's Toro Student of the Year Competition is fast approaching. Entries should be returned to BIGGA House by 9 May. Judging will commence, in Edinburgh, on Monday 30 June. If you wish to nominate a student greenkeeper and have not received an entry form, contact BIGGA HOUSE as soon as possible. Entry forms can also be downloaded from our website: www.bigga.org.uk

Higher Education Scholarships supported by



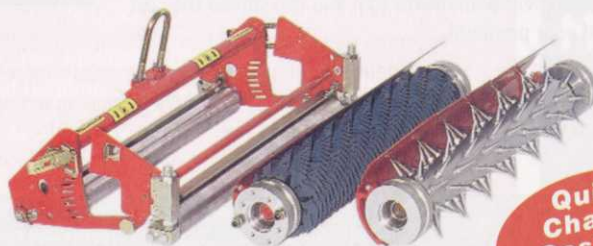
More than 20 greenkeepers are seeing the benefit from BIGGA Higher Education Scholarships which are supported by Ransomes Jacobsen.

Courses being studied cover the full range of higher education from N/SVQ Level 4 to MSC. Funding is available for those starting courses in 2004 so why not take the plunge by asking for an application form to plan the next move in your career development.

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