

Education



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 Ken Richardson on 01347 833800 or via ken@bigga.co.uk

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Ken Richardson gives an Education Update.

By the time this magazine is printed, I will have returned from a brief holiday in Spain, the TORO Student of the Year Competition will have reached its climax, the Standing Committee on Greenkeepers Salaries and conditions of service will have published its 2004 Recommendations and the first of this autumn's training courses will have commenced. I must be in need of a holiday as Scott, our Editor, keeps implying that I am getting old and passed it in his editorial.

Toro Student of the Year

The Toro Student of the Year Final was held at BIGGA HOUSE on Monday 29 September when eight candidates were judged by Peter Mansfield, from Lely UK; Andy Brown, from Toro, and David Walden and John Pemberton, from BIGGA. Each candidate was put through an intensive 45 minute interview and they had to produce a survey of 9 holes of the Aldwark Manor Golf Course. The standard of this Competition improves each year and the judges had a very difficult job selecting the winner. Full details of the Competition will appear in the November Edition of this magazine.

Salary Recommendations 2004

You should have received a copy of the 2004 Salary Recommendations with this magazine but if you did not receive your copy or want further copies then contact the CGS on 01347 830155 or by e-mail grenkeepersalaries@hotmail.com. The increase on the 2003 salaries is 3% which the rate of wage inflation as of June 2003.

Regional Training Courses

All greenkeeper members of BIGGA were sent a list of courses available and an application form, during late August. Most courses are now full but there are limited places on the Essential Management Skills Courses at Sunningdale Park on 28 & 29 October and Dunham Forest Golf Club, Cheshire on 25 & 26

November, on the Basic Computer Skills Courses at Newark Golf Club on 29 & 30 October and BIGGA HOUSE on 25 & 26 November. Remember that these courses are provided at such low prices (£70.50 inc VAT for members) thanks to a massive subsidy from the Education and Development Fund.

Continue to Learn 2004

You should have received a copy of the Continue to Learn 2004 brochure with this magazine. Continue to Learn 2004 is presented in association with the Greenkeepers Training Committee and is supported by the John Deere Team Championship (National Education Conference and Workshops), by Toro (Careers Fair), and by Ransomes Jacobsen (Keynote Speaker). Remember, that the Conference, Presentation of BIGGA Awards, Keynote Speaker, Seminars and the BIGGA AGM will all be held in a purpose built conference facility in Hall D of the Harrogate

International Centre. Three one-day Workshops will be held in the Moat House Hotel. The Conference dinner and the Exhibitions Banquet, with Bootleg ABBA, will be held in the Majestic Hotel.

You need to be thinking about booking your accommodation for Continue to Learn and the BTME & ClubHouse Exhibitions. BIGGA will NOT be booking accommodation for January 2004. The BIGGA Accommodation Booking Agent is Reservation Highway and you can book accommodation through their website www.reservationhighway.co.uk

Workplace Stress

Anyone who read my article on Workplace Stress in last month's magazine may have recognised many of the causes of stress from their own experiences. Others may have dismissed the article as irrelevant.

The Health and Safety Executive are taking this new legislation very seriously and have recently served an improvement notice on a Health Service Hospital Trust.

Overseas Exchanges

New immigration rules have made it easier for visitors from Commonwealth countries to work in the UK. The old rules banned people from working at their jobs while on a working holiday visa and limited their stay to two years. That has now changed and, for example an Australian Greenkeeper could come to work on a British Golf Course and stay for three years with a possibility to extend their stay.

This new rule would make exchange of greenkeepers easier, although there would still be the problem of accommodation etc. Is there anyone out

there who would consider employing a greenkeeper from overseas, who would consider working overseas or would consider allowing one of their staff to take part in an exchange visit? As I mentioned earlier, these rules apply to the Commonwealth but that includes, among others, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, India, Pakistan and most of Africa. Travelling to and working in countries in Europe presents less of a problem although anyone thinking of trying to work in Portugal for example would have to learn Portuguese whereas English would be sufficient in Australia.