



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

Golden Key Supporters



Golden Key Company Members

Company	Tel: Head Office
Gem Professional	01254 356611
John Deere Ltd	01949 860491
Kubota (UK) Ltd	01844 214500
PGA European Tour	01344 842881
Rigby Taylor Ltd	01204 677777
Scotts UK Professional	01473 830492
Ransomes Jacobsen Ltd	01473 270000
The Toro Company/Lely UK	01480 226800
TurfTrax Group Ltd	01722 434000

Golden Key Individual Members

J H Fry; J H Greasley; WJ Rogers; David S Robinson; Stuart Townsend; Andrew Cornes; Andy Campbell MG; CGCS; Roger Barker; Chris Yeaman; Iain A MacLeod; Bruce Cruickshank; John Crawford; Stuart Cruickshank; Frank Newberry; Terence Welch

Silver Key Supporters



Silver Key Company Members

Company	Tel: Head Office
Bernhard and Company Ltd	01788 811600
Ernest Doe & Sons	01245 380311
General Legal Protection Ltd	01904 611600
Hayter Ltd	01279 723444
Heath Lambert Group	0113 246 1313
RainBird	01273 891326
Syngenta Professional Products	0041 613 233 028
Wolf Garten	01495 306600

Silver Key Individual Members

Clive A Archer; Douglas G Duguid; Robert Maibusch MG; Elliott R Small; Steven Tierney; Richard Lawrence; Clive Osgood; David Robinson; Richard Stillwell; Stephen Dixon; Ian Semple; Paul Jenkins; Robert Hogarth; R Steele; Lee Relf; Raymond Warrender; Nicholas Gray; Trevor Smith; Ian Barr; Richard McGlynn; Alex McCombie; Paul Murphy

Education Update

This month's article includes an update on Ken Richardson's visit to the GCSAA Headquarters, details of the TORO Student of the Year Regional Finals and some important information on FREE training.

Toro Student of the Year Competition 2004

After travelling almost 15,000 miles and staying in four different hotels, interviewing 34 candidates, my fellow judges and I selected eight National Finalists for this year's competition.

This was the eleventh year that I have been involved with the Student of the Year and I was pleased to see that standards of presentation, preparation for interview and technical knowledge have all continued to improve. It is always difficult to choose between candidates and this year was no exception.

The judges would like to put forward all of the candidates but that is not possible and some selection must take place. It is obvious that employers are taking more of an interest in education and training and course managers have a great part to play in encouraging candidates to do their best at interview.

There were two problems with this year's interviews. Firstly, two candidates did not bother to turn up for interview, not only wasting the time of the judges but also preventing training providers putting forward an alternative candidate. Secondly, someone attempted to break into my car when it was parked in a hotel car park. The double locking system held and they did not gain access although they did cause over £300 of damage.

The National Finalists this year are:

Christopher Kerr, aged 22, from Glasgow who works at Cowglen Golf Club and was trained by GOSTA

Peter Kennedy, aged 21, from Ballymanna who worked at Pinehurst Golf Club and was trained by Reaseheath College

Stuart Glover, aged 32, from Ballygowan who works at Lisburn Golf Club and was trained by Greenmount College

Alex Shore, aged 26, from Milton Keynes who works at Woburn Golf and Country Club and was trained by Oaklands College

Robert Finnegan, aged 21, from Navan who works at the Old Course and was trained by Elmwood College

Katie Walls, aged 21, from Taunton who works at Taunton and Pickeridge and was trained by Myerscough College

Alistair Higgs, aged 19, from Reading who works at Calcot Park and was trained by Sparsholt College

James Canham aged 19, from Wisbech who works at Weston Park and was trained by the College of West Anglia.

The National Final will be held at BIGGA House on Monday 27 September.

Free training on offer in several areas

I have recently been informed of a scheme called Skills @ Work which gives free training at a number of locations around England.

Areas funded so far are Leicestershire, Berkshire, Birmingham Solihul, Derbyshire, Essex, Greater Manchester, Kent and Medway, London East, Shropshire, South Yorkshire, Tyne and Wear and Wiltshire and Swindon.

Subjects covered include: NVQ Level 2 Sportsturf, Health and Safety, First Aid, Food Hygiene, IT Training, Customer Care, Food Preparation, Bar Service, Administration and Management Skills.

I shall be sending out further information as it becomes available so start to think about what training is needed at your golf club and be prepared to take advantage of this great offer.

Visit to GCSAA Headquarters

John Pemberton and I made a flying visit to the GCSAA Headquarters in late June, where we met up with the Chairman, Andy Campbell. For those who don't know, the GCSAA Headquarters is based in the town of Lawrence, Kansas, where their 120 employees look after 120,000 members.

John, Andy and I spent two and a half days travelling and one day in meetings during our four day visit so we did not have much time for sight seeing, although Hannes and Gina gave us the quick tour of Lawrence and Kansas City. I have still not worked out why Kansas City is in Missouri and not in Kansas.

Our meeting with various members of the GCSAA staff reinforced the perception that golf course superintendents had very similar problems to greenkeepers on this side of the Atlantic. The GCSAA are working hard to improve the status of superintendents and the way golfers and the general public perceive them. They are trying to encourage golfers to think about the input of superintendents

when they have had a good round of golf and not just blame them when they have had a bad one.

They are expanding their trade show to include the golf club owners and calling their new show Golf Solutions. They are working hard to encourage international members, although their rules say that UK greenkeepers must be members of BIGGA before they can join the GCSAA. They are also having a close look at the environment and the superintendent's job in its management.

Just some of the things happening across in Lawrence, most of which are happening over here. Despite what television seems to indicate, not every golf course in the US has a massive budget, nor three times the personnel. They do have restrictions on the type and amount of pesticides that can be used and the restrictions are getting worse. Not all is gloom however. Salaries are good, the cost of living is quite low and travel is still relatively cheap. Petrol was \$1.69 (93p) per gallon when we were there.