



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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Education Update



With 2005 quickly ticking by Education and Training Manager, Ken Richardson, highlights the FREE training for Greenkeepers available across the UK.

By the time that you read this article, Easter will have come and gone, the clocks will have gone forward and a third of 2005 will have gone by. My thoughts are now on the TORO Student of the Year Programme, the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition, FREE - yes - FREE training for greenkeepers and the BIGGA Education and Development Fund.

TORO Student of the Year 2005



Information leaflets and application forms for the 2005 TORO Student of the Year Competition have been sent out to all colleges and training providers. Completed entry forms have to be returned to BIGGA HOUSE by May 6 2005. Judging will commence on Monday July 4 in Scotland, followed by Manchester (Northern and Ireland) on July 5, South East on July 6, South West on July 7 and finally Midlands on July 8.

The 2004 Student of the Year, Alex Shore, has recently returned from the USA and he will be letting us all know what he achieved in a future article in this magazine.

BIGGA Golf Environment Competition

You should have all received an invitation to enter the 2005 BIGGA Golf Environment Competition sponsored by WRAP, Scotts UK Professional, Syngenta Professional Products and new for 2005, Waste2Water.

The 2005 Competition will run on similar lines to previous years although, due to extra sponsorship, more clubs than ever will receive a visit from the STRI judges.

Entry forms will be sent to interested clubs in early April and they will have to be returned to BIGGA HOUSE by early June when the Competition judges assess nine areas of environmental management:

Nature Conservation
Energy Efficiency
Landscape and Cultural Heritage
Education and Training
Water Resource Management
Turfgrass Pest Management
Communications
Public Access and Awareness
Waste Management



Golf Environment Competition

Those clubs judged to meet the criteria best will be selected to progress to the second stage of the Competition while clubs not selected will receive extended feedback on their entry. Clubs selected to progress to the second round will be visited by the judges who will, subsequently, select the prize winners for 2005.

The National Winner will receive a cheque for £2,000, a Scott's Weather Master Weather Station and the BIGGA Golf Environment Trophy. Each of the other four area winners and the runners up in the winners region will each receive a cheque for £500.

Prizes of £500 will be awarded for:

- The Best Environmental Initiative
- The Most Impressive Newcomer
- The Best Use of Recycled Materials

All prize winners receive a plaque to display in the Clubhouse.

Whether your course is large or small, it provides an important link in the environmental chain, helping to achieve long term ecological benefits. Let your members, local residents and the World see what you are doing by entering this year's Competition. Who knows, it may be your turn to join this year's winners at the BTME & ClubHouse Exhibition held in Harrogate in January 2006.

FREE Training

It's not often that you can get anything for free, however, free training is available for golf greenkeepers. The first way of obtaining free training is to enrol your trainee onto an apprenticeship. Contact your local training provider and/or your local Learning and Skills Council (LSC) office for further details.

Free training is available in other parts of the country for all trainees. I mentioned a scheme in the Midlands in a previous article and South Yorkshire has become the most recent area to offer this deal. Again, contact your local LSC office for details.

BIGGA Education and Development Fund

BIGGA has been able to produce a wide range of training support material and to subsidise training courses thanks to the generous contributions made to its Education and Development Fund. Over the past year, more than £25,000 has been used to subsidise Regional and Section Seminars and Conferences and to subsidise local training courses.

Many greenkeepers, who have had to pay their own fees, have benefited from the Refund of Fees Scheme and we have awarded a contract to produce the long awaited Training and Development Manual.

We are very grateful for the contributions made by companies and by individuals to the Education and Development Fund. However, if you wish to contribute or you know of a company or individual who is interested in joining the Fund then please let me know.