



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
AGCO (Massey Ferguson)	02476 851286
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The Toro Company/Lely UK	01480 226800

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Education Update

Ken Richardson, Education and Training Manager, reviews the Student of the Year Regional Finals.

July has always been an eventful month for the Education and Training Department of BIGGA. July 2005 was memorable for all sorts of reasons but the cowardly act of terrorism perpetrated in London is likely to lodge in my memory for many years to come.

Toro Student of the Year Competition 2005



We seemed to have picked a bad week for the Regional Finals of this year's competition as the first day, July 4, coincided with the planned G8 protest in Edinburgh. Thankfully, things ran smoothly on the day and all five nominees attended their interviews.

A rapid train journey south was followed by interviews at Manchester Airport, where we interviewed a further five candidates. Hemel Hempstead was the next location, where we interviewed nine candidates and managed to fit in the announcement that London had been awarded the 2012 Olympic Games. A leisurely drive west took us to Cheltenham, followed by a more hectic drive to Kettering

while listening to the shocking news about the London bombs, on Radio 4.

Over 1200 miles of travel, five hotels and a full week of interviews, when I was joined by Iain McLeod, Andy Campbell, Jeff Mills and Gavin Robson, from the BIGGA Board of Management, and Trevor Chard and Jeff Anguige, from Toro, saw us select eight candidates for the National Final that takes place at BIGGA House on September 26.

The standard of entrant to this competition improves each year, making the judge's job even harder. All of those reaching the Regional Finals have gone through a selection process when 3000 'students' are whittled down to 25 entries. Unfortunately, we can pick only eight finalists and you can read all about them in the September issue of Greenkeeper International.

BIGGA Higher Education Scholarships



This is also the time of year when students graduate from colleges of higher education, including greenkeepers completing NVQ Level 4, HNC, Foundation Degree, First

Degree and Masters Degree Courses. Many of these were fortunate enough to receive a BIGGA Higher Education Scholarship, sponsored by Ransomes Jacobsen, to help with their fees.

If you are about to start a course of higher education then you could be eligible for a scholarship. Contact Ken or Sami on 01347 833800 for details.

Harrogate Week 2006

The programme for Harrogate Week 2006 is almost ready to go to the printers and it will be distributed in late September/early October. Make sure that you read the brochure thoroughly as many changes have been included for 2006, including a massive increase in the amount of education opportunities available.

Last month's education article contained information on some of the Workshops that would be running during Harrogate Week. The Programme included a Resource Management Workshop presented by Frank Newberry. This should have read Project Management presented by Frank Newberry.

Regional Training

There is still time for you to decide on subjects and locations for this autumn's education courses. Contact your Section Secretary, Regional Administrator or Ken/Sami at BIGGA HQ for further details.

The Midland Section, of the Midland Region, are well ahead with their planning and wish to offer a range of training courses this Autumn. Paul Woodham has asked that I publicise the following.

The Midland Section is actively promoting skills training this autumn/winter. Gay Hill Golf Club have kindly offered their facilities for training purposes and we hope that a selection of courses will be held depending on demand. Suggested courses are:

- Manual Handling
- Compact Tractor Operation
- Chainsaw Use
- ATV Driving Skills
- A1 Assessor
- L12 Trainer

The courses can be run only on demand and it is in our member's interest to take the opportunity to further their career development and strengthen the health and safety aspects of greenkeeping.

If there are other courses that you wish to attend in the Midlands or you require further information, you can contact Paul on 07880 734197 or email paul@ghgc.org.uk.