

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

For details, please contact Ken Richardson on 01347 833800 or via ken@bigga.co.uk

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Education Update

Education and Training Manager, Ken Richardson, details the extensive Continue to Learn Programme at Harrogate Week 2006.

As 2005 draws to a close, Sami and I are looking ahead to Harrogate Week, when we present Continue to Learn, the largest, targeted education experience in Europe for those in the fine turf and golf club management industries. We are also planning the launch of the BIGGA Training and Development Manual and a new initiative on leadership and management training.



Many greenkeepers have now booked their GTC supported Continue to Learn Workshop Sessions, although you could still book your place if you contact BIGGA HQ before the January 11 booking deadline. The two-day and one-day workshops have been designed to meet the needs of specific groups of greenkeepers and they are as follows.

Two-day: Basic Health and Safety for Greenkeepers, The Greenkeepers Guide to Project Management, Taking the Fear out of Financial Management, An Introduction to Golf Course Design (Sold Out) and the Knowledge Element of the A1 Assessor Award.

One-day Workshops are: Customer Care, Managing Water, Managing Performance, L12 Coaching Award and an A1 Assessor Update.

The Continue to Learn Programme continues throughout the BTME & ClubHouse Exhibition, commencing on Tuesday January 24 with the Presentation of BIGGA Awards, followed by a motivational keynote presentation given by Colonel John Blashford-Snell. This is followed by the first Continue to Learn Seminar, presented by Brin Bendon. Brin will endeavour to show you how to influence others through better communication.

Thanks to sponsorship from Ransomes Jacobsen, we have introduced a series of half-day workshops during BTME & ClubHouse, beginning on Tuesday January 24 with Environmental Management and, running at the same time, The Basics of Microsoft Word. Wednesday January 25 will see the introduction of a day of seminars aimed at golf club managers, golf club secretaries, and golf club officials.

These seminars are presented jointly with the English Golf Union and the Association of Golf Club Secretaries. Running alongside these Seminars will be two more Ransomes Jacobsen sponsored Workshops, The Basics of Microsoft Excel and Media Skills and Strategy Training.

Thursday January 26 will be the busiest Continue to Learn Day, with three Seminars - Managing Poa Annua, An Holistic Approach to Disease Management and The Competent Person. The third half-day Microsoft Workshop, The Basics of Powerpoint, will also be running. Thursday afternoon sees the start of the conference and debate on Maintaining the Sustainable Golf Course that is presented jointly with the R&A. The Conference continues on Friday morning with an open discussion.

Hopefully by now, you will have noticed a massive increase in the amount of education available during Harrogate Week. However, it does not end there. Thanks to the introduction of the Queen's Suite at Harrogate International Centre, the location of all of the above sessions, we are able to present a wide variety of fringe session that will be open to all visitors free of charge.

Details of all of these sessions will be included in the fringe events brochure that you should have received with your copy of Greenkeeper International.

FRINGE SEMINARS

Half hour fringe seminars will be presented on Tuesday January 24 by Toro, WBB Minerals, Headland, Rigby Taylor, STRI, Sheltons, Complete Weed Control, Otterbine, Lloyds of Letchworth and Scotts.

On Wednesday by Toro, Tower Chemicals, Vitax and Even Products. On Thursday by Fairway Credit, Briggs & Stratton, Circle Insurance, WRAP, Symbio, Grovewood Publishing, OptimizeGolf, Terrain, Headland and Toro.

STUDENT FORUM

Thursday January 26 is a special day for students. Not only will they be able to gain entry to Seminars free of charge and attend a Toro sponsored Student Forum; they can also attempt the Student Quiz and win a first prize of an Apple iPod.

Two old favourites return for 2006 when the Careers Fair and Job Shop, sponsored by Toro, run throughout BTME & ClubHouse and the Women's Forum takes place on Wednesday January 25. There is definitely something for everyone at Harrogate Week 2006. It is bound to be a popular event and places on Workshops and Seminars need to be booked early.

ACCOMMODATION

An indication of the popularity of Harrogate Week is that BIGGA has sold all of its allocated accommodation. Anyone wishing to book accommodation for Harrogate Week should contact our appointed accommodation agent, Reservation Highway, at www.reservation-highway.co.uk, using the access code 'bigga'. They can also be contacted by telephone on 01423 525577.

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Another BIGGA member has reached the required standard for the award of a Diploma in Continuing Professional Development (CPD). Congratulations to Iain MacLeod, Course Manager at Tain Golf Club.

A Diploma in Continuing Professional Development is awarded to those members of BIGGA who have been awarded five consecutive Certificates of Continuing Professional Development. A Certificate of Continuing Professional Development is awarded to those members of BIGGA who have earned a minimum of 10 CPD Credits in the calendar year July to June each year. Credits are awarded for a wide range of education and training courses, seminars, workshops and conferences.