



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

In another busy month, Education and Training Manager, Ken Richardson, gives details on the Harrogate Week brochure and news on the developing Health and Safety Management Guide.

Another busy month for the Education and Training Department has seen the Harrogate Week brochure printed, the Final of the Toro Student of the Year Competition, the production of a brand new careers' pack, the production of the 2006 Salary Recommendations, the final stages of the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition, the start of a joint BIGGA/AGCS Health and Safety project and the beginning of this year's Regional and Section Education Courses.



Hopefully, you will have seen plenty of information on Harrogate Week 2006 that will run from Sunday January 22 to Friday January 27 2006. Harrogate Week will contain a wide range of activities for greenkeepers, groundsmen, golf club officials, secretaries, managers, etc, including the wide ranging Continue to Learn Programme, BTME & ClubHouse, Women's and Students' Forums, the Banquet and the BIGGA Annual General Meeting, to name but a few.

You should have received a copy of the Harrogate Week brochure with this copy of Greenkeeper International. This brochure gives you an idea of what's on during Harrogate Week with full details of the Continue to Learn Programme that is supported by the GTC. Continue to Learn 2006 will include more than 150 hours of education sessions as compared to less than 60 hours in 2005, with two day, one day and half day workshops, seminars and a mini conference/debate, supported by the R&A.

There will also be a programme of fringe Seminars presented by a range of exhibitors that you can attend free of charge. These seminars will be running throughout the Exhibition and full details will appear in a separate fringe programme. All half day workshops are sponsored by Ransomes Jacobsen. Many of the Continue to Learn sessions have been specially targeted at groups of workers, including greenkeepers and groundsmen, those in supervisory positions, golf course and grounds managers, golf club officials, secretaries and managers.

We have also reintroduced an accommodation booking service for 2006 and full details are given in the enclosed brochure. Places on workshops are limited so it is in your interest to book early.

Another first for 2006 is the introduction of a Student Forum, sponsored by Toro, where those new to the Industry will be able to find out how they can further their careers, how to win an all expenses paid trip to the United States and where they can take part in a quiz to win an iPod.

Some old favourites return for 2006, including the ever popular Careers Fair, which is also sponsored by Toro. Brin and Frank will be there to help you find your next job and to help you to negotiate your salary package.

If you have any questions about the Continue to Learn Programme please contact Sami or me at BIGGA HOUSE.

BIGGA TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT MANUAL

The BIGGA Training and Development Manual is making steady progress and should be ready to be launched at BTME & ClubHouse next January. This internet based guide will give greenkeepers and their employers help and advice on training and development of their staff from induction through to golf course management and beyond. Watch out for further details in the next edition of Greenkeeper International.

TORO STUDENT OF THE YEAR FINAL

The Toro Student of the Year Final took place at BIGGA HOUSE on Monday September 26. Full details of the Final and the Winner of the Toro Scholarship will appear in the next edition of Greenkeeper International.

CAREERS IN GREENKEEPING

BIGGA and the GTC have cooperated to produce a new Careers in Greenkeeping package. Copies are available on request.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE FOR GOLF CLUB SALARIES

A copy of the Recommendations of the Committee on Golf Club Salaries (CGCS) is enclosed with this magazine. The recommended increase from the 2005 rates is 4%, i.e. the annual rise in average salaries to June 2005.

The eagle-eyed reader may well have noticed a change in name for the Committee. This has been introduced to reflect the change in role of the Committee that are now considering the salaries of Secretaries/Secretary Managers in addition to the salaries of greenkeepers. Recommendations on Secretaries' salaries will be published in the autumn of 2006.

BIGGA GOLF ENVIRONMENT COMPETITION

The BIGGA Golf Environment Competition, sponsored by Scotts UK Professional, Syngenta Professional Products, Waste2Water and WRAP, is reaching its final stages. The judges from STRI have almost finished their golf course visits and we should be able to announce the prize winners in the next edition of Greenkeeper International.

REGION AND SECTION TRAINING

We have almost spent the funds allocated from the BIGGA Education and Development Fund to support Regional and Section Education Courses. Many Regions and Sections have made a bid for courses and/or support for seminars and conferences. Contact Sami or me if you wish to submit a bid for an education course in your local area.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

BIGGA and the AGCS have joined forces to produce a guide to Health and Safety Management for golf courses. The guide, which should be available in the spring of 2006, will allow golf clubs and greenkeepers to introduce a Health and Safety management system that is standard throughout the industry.