

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.

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

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Ken Richardson discusses the department's latest projects.

What with the results of the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition being announced and the build up to Harrogate Week continuing, it has not been easy for Sami and I to find time to work on our current project, the development of the AGCS/BIGGA Safety Management System.

The BIGGA Golf Environment Competition



As the results of the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition are announced, I would like to reinforce our gratitude to the four sponsors. Ransomes Jacobsen, Scotts, Syngenta and Course Care without whose support, this, extremely worthwhile competition could not continue. The full results appear elsewhere in this magazine but I would like to congratulate Brighthouse Bay Golf Club on becoming the National Winner.

The Environment Competition prizes will be presented during Harrogate Week.

Harrogate Week 2007



Last month's article concentrated on Half-Day Harrogate Week Workshops and I intend to look at Seminars this month.

With just 49 days left to the start of Harrogate Week, that's just 29 working days, places on the Harrogate Week Workshops are few and far between. However, there are still places on the Seminars, where there is something for everyone. The programme has continued to develop and we have added a seminar presented by the R&A that will take place before the Opening Session on Tuesday, January 23.

This half hour session will look at two areas, the Turfgrass Climate Map and the Open Road to Sustainability.

The interactive climate map shows where warm or cool season grasses are most appropriate and the Transition Zone where often, difficult choices have to be made with regard the most sustainable turfgrass selection. The map is linked to text on the R&A Best Practice web site (www.bestcourseforgolf.org) that describes the turfgrass species in detail.

The Open Championship at Hoylake last July was considered to be a great success. The R&A Golf Course Committee has produced a DVD that highlights the sustainable nature of the course. With footage taken both from The Open itself and again nine weeks after Tiger Woods picked up the Claret Jug for the third time, this DVD considers the recovery achieved after hosting a major golf event. See this new resource at Harrogate.

The morning continues with the presentation of awards to Master Greenkeepers, to prize winners in the Golf Environment Competition and to those who have gained diplomas in Continuing Professional Development.

This session will be followed by 'Making an Exhibition of Yourself' - a presentation by Frank Newberry. Frank is well known for his exuberant flamboyant approach to presentations and his talk will give an interesting spin on how to get the most out of your visit to Harrogate.

Seminars continue in the afternoon with Dr Kate Entwistle taking a close look at integrated pest management. Kate will be showing us how the accurate identification of problems is the key to successful management.

How often have you had to deal with difficult people, whether at home, at work or socially? The, 'I'm not Difficult, Everyone Else Is!' Seminar, presented by Mike John will help you to cope in these situations.

The first day of BTME ends with a look at Developing a Sustainable Approach to the Management of Amenity Turf. Presented by Jon Allbut

and Joan Reeves. Not only is it free, all delegates will receive the latest copy of the Approved Code of Practice for the Use of Plant Protection Products.

Wednesday sees the return of International Seminars when four greenkeepers will relate their experiences in Canada, the USA, Sweden, Holland, Germany, Belgium, Spain, the UK, Australia and Hong Kong. All four sessions are Free of Charge to all delegates

Thursday morning introduces four Seminars that have the common aim of Keeping the Customer Satisfied. It is becoming ever more important to run golf clubs on a commercial basis. Lose your customers or your members and you will have great difficulty getting them back. One area that always makes golfers complain is green speed. Come and see what Dr Richard Hurley recommends that you do to keep golfers happy. Andy Campbell has had to work within severe financial constraints for many years and he is well suited to tell us how golf club management needs to be aimed at getting golfers to come back.

The majority of golfers play the game for relaxation and enjoyment and they want to have a pleasurable experience. All golf club staff need to be aware of this and do all that they can to present a positive image. David Roy has had a great deal of experience on both sides of golf club management and he will use his experience to show how we are all involved in making golf a pleasure.

Getting the message across can be very difficult at times and yet we expose many greenkeepers and golf club officials to the media without any training or preparation. Roger Greenwood has worked in or with the media for many years on both sides of the camera and in journalism. He will concentrate on how to present a positive image and how to change negative perceptions.

As if all the above were not enough, we are pleased to be able to offer 14 Exhibitor Presentations during BTME. These free of charge Seminars take a close look at a wide range of technical topics from Aeration to Turf.

Make sure of your place by sending in your application form as soon as possible. Remember that if you book all seminars, you get a 30% discount and if you book all seminars through your Regional Administrator, you get a 40% discount.

The AGCS/BIGGA Safety Management System

We have made progress in developing the Internet based AGCS/BIGGA Safety Management System. Thanks to sponsorship from Ransomes Jacobsen (logo) and cooperation between BIGGA, the AGCS, greenkeepers, secretaries, golf club officials and Health and Safety Advisers, the launch of this internet resource will take place at Harrogate. Come along to the Queens Suite at 5pm on Wednesday, January 24 to see if you it can help you at your golf club.