



Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund

BIGGA GOLDEN KEY and SILVER KEY MEMBERSHIP

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

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Clive A Archer; Douglas G Duguid; Robert Maibusch MG; Steven Tierney; Roger Barker; Ian Semple; Paul Jenkins; Robert Hogarth; Nichollas Gray; Trevor Smith; Iain Barr; Richard McGlynn; Alex McCombie; Paul Murphy; Reaseheath College; Steve Dixon.

Education Update

Ken Richardson outlines some of the Education Department's projects over the next few months.

July is another hectic month in the Education and Training Department, as we begin judging the Toro Student of the Year competition; begin judging the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition, supported by Scotts, Syngenta, Ransomes Jacobsen and Course Care; get involved with setting European standards of competence and finalise the Continue to Learn Programme for Harrogate Week 2007.

TORO Student of the Year 2006



Judging for this year's Student of the Year Competition took place at the beginning of this month with eight finalists being selected from 36 high quality entries. The final of the

Competition takes place at BIGGA House on Monday, 18 September. See future editions of Greenkeeper International for details of the National Finalists.



BIGGA Golf Environment Competition

The deadline for this Competition, supported by Scotts, Syngenta, Ransomes Jacobsen and Course Care was at the end of June. The entries have been checked before being delivered to the STRI where Bob Taylor and Lee Penrose will begin the judging process. This first stage of judging selects the clubs that will receive a visit from one of the SRTI ecologists throughout the summer. Prize winners should be notified in early October and all prizes will be presented during Harrogate Week.



Following the extremely successful Continue to Learn Week at Harrogate last January, it has been difficult to extend the amount and range of education on offer. However, by working with the GTC, the R&A, the AGCS, the EGU and our industry partners, we have managed to improve the programme even more. With extra workshops and more seminars targeted at greenkeeping staff, groundsmen, secretaries, golf club managers and officials there is, truly, something for everyone. Not only that, we have listened to feedback that expressed concerns regarding cost and we shall be operating a discount scheme for those attending more than one seminar. This will apply to clubs and individuals so the more you send the cheaper it gets.



Pan European Greenkeeping Standards

As David Golding outlines, the R&A carried out a survey of all European Golf Unions/Federations in 2004, to gauge the need for a common set of competence standards throughout Europe.

The feedback showed that there was overwhelming support for common standards and it also showed that some countries would welcome help in implementing those standards. Therefore, the first meeting of the Pan European Greenkeeper Education Unit, took place last month to determine the way ahead. The meeting, hosted by FEGGA, brought together delegates from Switzerland, Germany, Holland and the UK to look at how European Standards could be introduced; how the various countries could meet the Standards and to look at the need for a European qualification.

At this stage, you might well ask why we need yet another qualification in the UK when we have a wide range of qualifications from N/SVQ to Masters Degree. This was one of the first questions discussed at the meeting and it became clear that many of the countries in Europe had their own education and training systems that led to the award of qualifications. Moreover, it became clear that there was Europe wide acceptance that there were three types of job on golf courses, ie Golf Course Greenkeeper, Golf Course Supervisor and Golf Course Manager. Each country has its own range of job titles but the jobs done on golf courses fall into three distinct areas.

Their meeting made four main recommendations:

- European Standards should be developed that reflect the three types of job on a golf course, i.e. Golf Course Greenkeeper, Golf Course Supervisor and Golf Course Manager.
- That each country in Europe should be encouraged to apply to have their greenkeeping qualifications recognised as meeting the European Standards.
- That European Certificates of Competence should be issued to individuals throughout Europe whose, in-country qualifications meet the European Standards.
- That the European Greenkeeping Education Unit (EGEU) should be established.

European Certificates of Competence would allow greenkeepers to seek employment throughout Europe and employers would be able to easily check that job candidates held an appropriate qualification and were competent to 'do the job'.

Countries new to golf and just starting to develop their education and training systems or those without systems in place could be given guidance and help to meet European Standards.

Further meetings are planned later this year to determine the Standards, suggest a business plan and determine quality assurance procedures.