

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

















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Silver Key Company Members

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Education Update



A Happy New Year to all our readers. What will 2007 bring for BIGGA, for greenkeepers, Sami and for me?

Following on from the Internet based Training and Development Manual, that is proving to be a useful management tool for members of BIGGA and the AGCS, we are producing a best practice Safety Management System (SMS) for golf clubs, again jointly with the AGCS. The SMS will be launched on Wednesday 24 January at 5pm just before the BIGGA AGM. We are also working on a Management Training Scheme for greenkeepers that we hope to launch in the autumn of 2007.

Environment Competition

If you attend the presentation of Awards on Tuesday 23 January in the Queen's Suite of Harrogate International Centre, you will see Brighouse Bay Golf Club awarded the winners prize for the 2006 BIGGA Golf Environment Competition, with Reay Golf Club, St Anne's Old Links, Notts (Hollinwell), Royal St Davids, Rookwood, Guildford and the Grove Golf Clubs winning the other prizes.

Thanks to generous sponsorship from Course Care, Ransomes Jacobsen, Scotts Professional Products and Syngenta Professional, the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition will run again in 2007. David Withers MD of Ransomes Jacobsen said "Ransomes Jacobsen is delighted to sponsor the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition. As leading turf equipment manufacturer committed to environmental best practice and sustainability, sponsoring the competition enables us to highlight the importance of green issues. Our commitment is tangible, as demonstrated by our three-year Lead Partner agreement signed with Golf Environment Europe (GEE) earlier this year.

"Golf Environment Europe is a pan European initiative working to promote environmental sustainability in golf. Developed from the Committed to Green Foundation's principles, it is supported by a wide range of golfing organisations and is committed to the promotion of environmental responsibility across all areas of the golf industry.

"We are also the only turf equipment manufacturer to have ISO 14001, the international standard for environmental management. This is a voluntary standard defining the elements of an environmental management system for us to effectively manage our impact on the environment. Employee participation and commitment has been crucial and our team at Ipswich has been magnificent with their support for the project.

"The BIGGA Golf Environment Competition sits very comfortably with our environmental ethos and with golf courses across the UK becoming increasingly aware of their environmental responsibilities; the standard of entries will undoubtedly be high. It really does give golf clubs the opportunity to display their environmental excellence. At the same time it provides others in the industry with an insight into the standards which are being set, emphasising the high standards of stewardship that are being achieved."

BIGGA Golf Environment Competition entry forms will be sent to all golf clubs in Britain, early in the New Year.



The booking deadline for the 2007 Continue to Learn Programme is fast approaching. You have until 10 January to book your place on a Workshop, however, many workshops are now full and you may not be able to attend your first choice. Contact Sami on 01347 833833 to check what is still available. We still have spaces available on the Seminar Programme but again; you should book as soon as possible to be sure of a place. For those who cannot decide or want to leave bookings to the last possible minute, Seminars can be booked on the day at the BIGGA Registration Desk, that will be situated outside the Queen's Suite.

Please note that the R&A will be launching their World Climate Map Website and their The Open Road to Sustainability DVD on Tuesday 23 January at 9.30am in the Queen's Suite.

Safety Management System

The AGCS/BIGGA Safety Management System (SMS) will be launched at 5pm on Wednesday 24 January in the Queen's Suite. Please note that the BIGGA AGM will now take place at 6pm.

Presentation of Awards

The Presentation of BIGGA Awards will take place at 10.30am on Tuesday 23 January in the Queen's Suite. These will include the presentation of prizes for the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition, the presentation of Master Greenkeeper jackets and plagues to Bob Ehler, Ken Siems, Chis Lomas and Gavin Kinsella, followed by the presentations of 10 CPD Diplomas and the prize to the winner of the BIGGA Photographic Competition.