

Education

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

Golden Key Supporters



Golden Key Company Members

Company	Tel: Head Office
AGCO (Massey Ferguson)	02476 851286
John Deere Ltd	01949 860491
Kubota (UK) Ltd	01844 214500
PGA European Tour	01344 842881
Rigby Taylor Ltd	01204 677777
Scotts UK Professional	01473 830492
Ransomes Jacobsen Ltd	01473 270000
The Toro Company/Lely UK	01480 226800

Golden Key Individual Members

JH Fry; JH Greasley; WJ Rogers; Chris Yeaman; Andy Campbell MG, CGCS; Iain A Macleod; Tom Smith; Bruce Cruickshank; Frank Newberry; Andrew Cornes; Christopher Lomas MG.

Silver Key Supporters



Silver Key Company Members

Company	Tel: Head Office
Bernhard and Company Ltd	01788 811600
Ernest Doe & Sons	01245 380311
General Legal Protection Ltd	01904 611600
Hayter Ltd	01279 723444
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Novozymes Biologicals	01789 290906
Rainbird	01273 891326
Symbio	01372 456101
Syngenta Professional Products	0041 613 233 028
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Silver Key Individual Members

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

As he enters his final month as an employee of BIGGA, before retirement Ken Richardson looks back over the past 14 years

Stress at work is now included as a hazard that must be considered when doing risk assessments and it's been said there are many outside influences that can increase stress levels - losing your job, moving house, divorce and a death in the family. 1993 ended with my redundancy from the Royal Air Force after 34 years and 1994 began with my father's death, my employment by BIGGA and a subsequent house move. I didn't have a handover when I arrived at Aldwark as my predecessor; had left before I arrived. However, I thought that I could cope OK as, after all, I had coped with regular postings, house moves, changes of job and lots of working away from home. I was coping quite well until, in May, Neil Thomas asked me if I had thought about the education programme for BTME. I can remember thinking 'BTME what?' as I hurried to my office to check the wording of my job description. Sure enough, there was an item saying produce BTME education programme. Thankfully, Neil gave me the names and numbers of several course managers and members of the trade so I could make a start. BTME 1995 brought back the stress as I hoped everything would go OK, that all of the speakers would turn up and some greenkeepers would turn up to listen. I needn't have worried, everything seemed to go smoothly with a two-day Conference in the Majestic Hotel and three days of Seminars in the Royal Hall.



The Conference Programme included papers on European Golf Course Ecology, How to Manage Golf Course Ecology, Obstacles and How to Overcome Them, The Benefits of Turf Grasses to the Environment, Water Management, Irrigation Techniques and Environmental Research.

Looking back it seems that BIGGA was taking a positive stance on environmental management in '95 and that has continued through to the present.

The Seminar programme included: two future

Chairmen of BIGGA, George Brown and Kerran Daly, Anthony Davies MG, Bridie Redican, Iain MacLeod and Jim Cassidy presenting a range of technical papers.

The Banquet entertainer was Tom O'Connor, ably supported by a last minute replacement, Linda Nolan - Who can ever forget Jim Snow's appearance on stage with Linda?

That was the start of my career with BIGGA but what has happened since?

My job has changed in many ways through taking on the additional role of Deputy Chief Executive. The depth and range of education and training for greenkeepers has grown massively. I have produced 13 Conference, Workshop and Seminar programmes for BTME/Harrogate Week. We have progressed from less than 12 MGs to more than 40. I have interviewed more than 400 students and helped to select 14 Toro Students of the Year. I've seen a massive change in the attitude, confidence and professionalism of greenkeepers, I have travelled around Europe and to the USA, attended more meetings than I care to remember but best of all, I have met a lot of very genuine, helpful, friendly greenkeepers, course managers, superintendents, officials, dealers, trade members, club secretaries, golf officials and even golfers.

Technology has brought many changes, computers are everywhere and overhead projectors are historical items like steam trains. Many course managers have become involved in staff training with more than 1000 holding an assessor qualification.

I can remember being asked at my interview what I knew about greenkeeping. My answer was not a lot but I did know a fair bit about education and training and that BIGGA had more than 3000 subject matter experts. I now know a bit more about greenkeeping know a bit more about education and training, and BIGGA now has more than 6000 subject matter experts.

I will be leaving my post with BIGGA on September 28 when Sami Collins, ably assisted by Rachael Duffy, will take over my duties in the new, Learning and Development Department. I am sure you will give both of them your full support.

I have enjoyed my time with BIGGA, working alongside, with, and for, some very dedicated professional people. I will miss you all but I look forward to keeping in touch through GI, the Internet and at Harrogate Week.