

Learning & Development

Key Sponsorship:

UNLOCK THE POTENTIAL OF GREENKEEPERS

The funding provided by Gold and Silver Key Sponsors is used to produce training and career aids, DVDs, CD Roms, field guides and provide refunds for training fees and subsidised learning and development courses. The funding also helps support seminars, workshops, courses, the lending library, careers advice, posters and manuals.

Many young greenkeepers owe their career progression to the assistance they've had from the Learning and Development Fund. An equal number of established greenkeepers have also been able to access the fund to continue their professional development thanks to the donations of the Gold and Silver Key Sponsors.

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING KEY SPONSORS



GOLDEN KEY



Golden Key Individual Members

JH Greasley; WJ Rogers; Andy Campbell MG, CGCS; Iain A Macleod; Tom Smith; Frank Newberry; Christopher Lomas MG, Lee Strutt MG.



SILVER KEY



Silver Key Individual Members

Ade Archer; Steven Tierney; Paul Jenkins; Iain Barr; Richard McGlynn; Steve Dixon; Sam Langrick.



Gold and Silver Key Presentations Day

In late May, we hosted an event for those companies and individuals who support BIGGA by being a Gold or Silver Key member of BIGGA. The financial contributions we receive from these members are used to support the Learning and Development Fund.

The Learning and Development Fund is used to provide a variety of different schemes and projects, specifically for members, including Field Guides, subsidies for Section and Region events, library books, the CPD scheme and the Refund of Fees scheme to name a few.

Since the Gold and Silver Key Fund was established in 1992, we have spent in excess of £879,000 and we hope that total contributions to the fund will top the £1Million mark in 2009. We list the Gold and Silver Key members on this page every month, but I would like to take this opportunity to thank them on your behalf for the difference they have made to the Learning and Development of greenkeepers.

Funding Opportunities

Scotland - Individual Learning Accounts (ILA Scotland) is a Scottish Government scheme that helps you pay for learning that you can do at a time, place, pace and in a way to suit you. If you are over 18 and living in Scotland, you could get up to £200 towards the cost of learning new skills with an individual learning account from ILA Scotland. If you earn £18,000 a year or less, you could get £200 a year towards the cost of learning. If you earn more than £18,000 a year, you could get £100 a year.

For further details call 0808 100 1090 or visit www.ilascotland.org.uk

England - Train to Gain is a service provided by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) to help businesses get the training they need to succeed. It aims to encourage all businesses and individuals to realise the benefits that learning and skills can bring. Funding is available to help adults to achieve a first full NVQ Level 2 qualification and to help improve basic literacy and numeracy skills.

For further details call 0800 015 55 45 or visit www.traintogain.gov.uk

Higher Education Scholarships Supported by



The most recent scholarship has been awarded to Lee Strutt MG – and it is for MSc Sports Turf Science.



After a few days of sunshine we've been fooled into thinking that summer is here – long may it continue! For those of us that are office bound we long for lunchtime to go outside and soak up some rays, for those of you who work outside, please make sure you're wearing suitable sun protection!

Toro Student of the Year 2008



Rachael and I have had a busy month during which we have been organising the Toro Student of the Year regional interviews. By the time you read this, I'll have done my whistle-stop tour of the country and will have been involved with interviewing 33 student greenkeepers from 17 colleges. The final of the competition will take place in September at BIGGA HOUSE for the eight finalists who have been selected following the interview process.

The BIGGA/GCMA Safety Management System



The SMS is celebrating its first birthday and is about to undergo its first review to ensure that it is 'doing what it says on the tin'.

With the help of the Golf Club Managers' Association (GCMA), with whom we are partnered on this project, and our various Health and Safety Advisors we hope to develop this safety management system so that it will become the recognised industry standard.

If you are registered on the SMS you will have received a short questionnaire, via email, that will help us with the review process. Please do take the time to complete and return it to us as your input is invaluable.