



Learning & Development

Sami Collins, Head of Learning & Development,
with an update on education issues

Summertime and the livin' is easy! After some terrible summers I for one am very, very happy to see the sun and feel some heat. Is it just me or does everyone seem so much happier with life?

Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award

The Regional interviews for the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award took place in July. My thanks go to our Regional Administrators Peter Boyd, Jane Jones, Peter Larter, Clive Osgood and to our greenkeeping representatives Archie Dunn, Les Howkins MG, Chris Sealey, Tony Smith and Richard Whyman who, alongwith the Toro representatives Nigel Lovatt, George MacDonald, Larry Pearn, John Pike and Ian Sumpter selected our eight National Finalists.

The eight Student Greenkeepers who have been selected to attend the National Finals on 13 and 14 September at BIGGA House are:

- Paul Bennett representing Merist Wood College
- Benjamin Burrill representing Askham Bryan College
- Martin Finegan representing Colaiste Stiofain Naofa
- Richard Jenkinson representing Elmwood College
- Peter Leach representing Myerscough College
- Rhys Norville representing Coleg Gwent, Usk Campus
- Oliver Pennington representing Myerscough College

Adam Wise representing Myerscough College

I'm sure you will join me in wishing all our National Finalist the very best of luck.


You Tube

Sitting at home a few weeks ago idly surfing the net, to find what I class to be the worlds funniest television adverts (for those of you who are interested it's the meerkats asking the questions 'have you seen me dancing? I mean really dancing?') I decided to search You Tube for some work related items. Having had several discussions about Dr Elaine Ingham in the past few months, I did a search and hey presto, found more than 20 short videos featuring or mentioning the lady herself. The videos clips include information on how to make organic compost, weeds, different forms of nitrogen, nutrition in food and soil biology.

I also searched for management videos using words like 'appraisal' and 'leadership' and was astounded how much information there is available (as well as a few funnies!). You Tube also features 'Channels' that you can access on a whole host of subjects and includes an open access channel from the Chartered Management Institute.

You Tube has turned out to be a very valuable resource (as well as enabling you to have a good laugh!).

Check it out at www.youtube.com.



The funding provided by Golden 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 Golden and Silver Key Sponsors.

Learning and Development Updates

Higher Education Scholarships

Supported by Ransomes Jacobsen

The most recent scholarships have been awarded to:
Derek Peat - On Line Foundation Degree - Sports Turf
Greg Knight - On Line Foundation Degree - Sports Turf

BIGGA Library

Six new books have been added to the BIGGA Library in the last month:

How to work wonders – Your guide to workplace wellness
– Liggie Webb



The body language bible
– Judi James

How to win friends and influence people
– Dale Carnegie

Confidence – the art of getting whatever you want
– Dr Rob Yeung

7 Habits of highly effective people
– Stephen R Covey

The one minute manager
– Ken Blanchard and Spencer Johnson

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Silver Key Individual Members: Ade Archer; Steven Tierney; Paul Jenkins; Iain Barr; Richard McGlynn; Steve Dixon; Hamish Campbell, Neil Whitaker, Robert Maibusch.