

# Learning & Development

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



**July already. This year is really flying by. I'm sure you're all as busy out on the golf course as we are here at Headquarters.**

**Rachael and I have a little circus-juggling act going on with all the events that we are co-ordinating at the moment. I think we could make some spare cash on the side!**



## Toro Student of the Year Award 2009

We have had a magnificent response to the Toro Student of the Year Award this year with 44 entries received from 18 colleges.

This is the highest number of entries that we have received since our computerised records for the Award began in 1996 (the Award began in 1989).

This has, in itself, caused a few logistical problems when organising the Regional Interviews.

We have overcome these problems by drafting in the help of the Regional Administrators to replace me at the interviews, therefore relieving me of a week out of the office flying, driving and interviewing my way around the country in five days.

The interviews will take place in the following locations, shown above right:

**Monday 6 July**  
– York and Exeter

**Tuesday 7 July**  
– Hemel Hempstead and Bristol

**Wednesday 8 July**  
– Hemel Hempstead and Glasgow

Eight finalists will be selected from the Regional Interviews to attend the National Final at BIGGA House on 13 and 14 September.

The eight finalists will be featured in the September issue of GI.

## CPD

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Continuing Professional Development 2009/2010

The new Continuing Professional Development year commenced on July 1, 2009 and will run until June 30, 2010.

To achieve your Certificate of Continuing Professional Development for 2009/2010 you must gain 10 CPD Credits within the 12 month period stated.

Credits can be gained for educational events that are attended including Section and Region events (not golf days), events run by suppliers and companies and events hosted by other associations such as the PGA, GCMA, EGU, SGU, GUW.

If you are unsure if you can claim credits for a specific event, please

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.

**Contact Details**

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contact either Rachael or myself for clarification.

If you would like to register on the CPD Scheme, you can download an application form from the BIGGA Website:

[www.bigga.org.uk/education](http://www.bigga.org.uk/education)  
or telephone 01347 833800 and select Option 3 for Education and we will send one out to you.

### Funding

Government funding for training is available from the Train to Gain fund.

Responsibility for the fund is now with your local Business Link.

To find your nearest Business Link telephone 0845 600 9 006 or visit [www.traintogain.gov.uk](http://www.traintogain.gov.uk).

### Free Training

Business Link offer a range of free training in many locations around the country.

The half-day workshops that they run, on a variety of subjects are presented by professional trainers.

I, among many of the BIGGA HQ staff, have attended several of their workshops and I can wholeheartedly say that they are worth every minute of the time required away from the workplace.

You can't get much better value than free of charge!

Go to [www.businesslink.gov.uk](http://www.businesslink.gov.uk) for further information.

## Thank you to our Golden and Silver Key Sponsors



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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.