

Learning & Development

Sami Collins, Head of Learning & Development, describes the projects the L&D department is currently working on



Spring seems to finally be springing, the daffodils are brightening up the countryside and the clocks have sprung forwards. The light nights are finally inspiring me to get off the sofa and go out for a walk and enjoy the fresh air. I'm sure that you'll all agree that we've seen enough snow to keep us happy for several years to come.

Spring also inspires me to start working on all the projects that get put on hold over the manic Harrogate Week and Golf Industry Show period. So, with a holiday under my belt, I think I'm finally ready to face 2010!

As you know, the majority of the initiatives and projects done by the Learning and Development Department are funded through the Learning and Development Fund which is supported by the Gold and Silver Key members of BIGGA.

I am pleased to confirm that those companies who have agreed to continue their support in 2010 are:



Gold Key

John Deere
Toro
European Tour
Ransomes Jacobsen
Syngenta
Kubota



Silver Key

Vitax (new in 2010)
Symbio
ARC Legal Assistance
Bernhard & Company
RainBird
Heath Lambert
Hayter

(This list reflects the companies who had renewed by 5 March 2010).

My thanks go to those listed who enable us to continue to develop resources for the members.

Several new projects have been discussed with the Learning and Development Sub-Committee that comprises members of the Board of Directors and other invited representatives - Chris Sealey, Gary Cunningham, Andrew Mellon, David Golding and Lee Strutt MG, AGS. The recommendations put forward by the Sub-Committee are taken to the Board of Directors to get the green light for the projects to commence.

Projects which we are working on at present include an overhaul of the Continuing Professional Development scheme. The intention is to develop a system that rewards learning and creates learning opportunities meaning that CPD credits will not be dependent purely on attendance at Section, Region or National events. If you are reading this and thinking 'what about



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.

my CPD credits?', don't worry, the old system will be integrated. The development of the new scheme requires time and a lot of work to ensure that it is sustainable for at least 10 years. Watch this space for further details on its development.

In the February issue of GI there was a small article on page 8 announcing a joint initiative between BIGGA, Jon Allbutt and the HSE introducing the Skills Sharpener training 'Tool Kits'. Although the article was slightly premature, we hope to have launched the Skills Sharpener on the website by the end of April or early May. The Skills Sharpeners are practical talks that Head Greenkeeper/Course Managers can use to deliver training to their staff on the following subjects:

- Belt Up on Slopes
- Slips, Trips and Falls
- Check Your Machine
- Watch Out! (Spotting Hazards)

Watch the website and the magazine for launch information.

Higher Education Scholarships



Supported by
Ransomes Jacobsen

The most recent scholarships have been awarded to:
Derek Robson – Certificate in Turfgrass Management



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