



Learning & Development

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

In the words of Lennon and McCartney, "I've got to admit it's getting better – it's getting better all the time" (Getting Better, Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band, 1967)...

The Continue to Learn Education Programme at Harrogate Week 2010 was a triumph. Rachael and I have soaked our feet, rested our brains and are ready to take on what 2010 has to throw at us!

In all seriousness, it is always extremely rewarding to see all the planning and preparation that has taken place over the last year come to fruition and the cherry on top of the icing on the cake is to receive such positive feedback from our Members and other visitors to the event.

As a Professional Body, we at BIGGA strive to deliver the very best for our Members. Events such as Harrogate Week reinforce that the time and energy devoted not only by the staff, but by the volunteers on all the Committees we work closely with is appreciated.

I am delighted to report that we had over 1600 attendees at the 129 hours of education events that was delivered over the course of the five-day education programme.

We ran a series of workshops that included some familiar titles and presenters as well as introducing some new, and what have proved to be very popular, titles and presenters.

For the delegates on the 'How to be an Outstanding Manager' I'm sure you'll join me in confirming that Shona Garner is quite an inspirational presenter!

It would be remiss of me not to thank the Gold and Silver Key contributors to the Learning and Development Fund for their support in enabling us to present Continue to Learn at Harrogate Week.

A big THANK YOU goes to you all.

The planning for 2011 is already underway (the ideas file has been building for several months already!) and your suggestions are requested.

Please forward any ideas or brainwaves to me. Serious planning takes place in April, so all submissions should be emailed to sami@bigga.co.uk by the end of March.

BIGGA Higher Education Scholarships



For those of you who attended the AGM, you would have heard that Ransomes Jacobsen has agreed to continue supporting the BIGGA Higher Education Scholarship scheme in 2010.

All greenkeeper members of BIGGA, in or about to enter higher education could apply for a scholarship.



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.

To be eligible for a scholarship, you must meet the following:

- 1. Be a Greenkeeper Member of BIGGA**
- 2. Be working as a full-time greenkeeper**
- 3. Have been a BIGGA Member for a minimum of two years**

Applicants should be aware that the fund may award scholarships of up to 50% of the cost of the course, however, it will typically be capped at £1000.

Application forms can be downloaded from the education pages of the website: www.bigga.org.uk

Or it can be requested by contacting the Learning and Development Department on 01347 833800 and selecting Option 3.

My thanks go to Ransomes Jacobsen on behalf of almost 100 Members who have received a BIGGA Higher Education Scholarship.

Up until 31 December 2009 Ransomes Jacobsen had invested £120,000 into the scheme, all of which has been distributed to our Members.

The further investment in 2010 will allow a minimum of eight Scholarships to be awarded.



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