

# Learning & Development

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



**I trust that you have all had an enjoyable festive period and are raring to go for 2010! Rachael and I are now trying to stick to our New Year resolutions – easier said than done!**

For our industry, the year kicks off in grand style with Harrogate Week incorporating Continue to Learn and the BTME & ClubHouse Exhibition providing us all with a much needed pick me up to lead us into the new season.

Delivering an event such as Continue to Learn is a time consuming and costly exercise to ensure that the standard of education is up to scratch and relevant, as well as affordable.

The Continue to Learn 2010 Education Programme is being partially supported by our Gold and Silver Key members, who contribute a great deal of money to the Learning and Development Fund.

The Learning and Development Fund is a ring-fenced fund that supports all of the activities that are undertaken by the Learning and Development Department.

Without this support BIGGA would not be able to offer many of the benefits and services that are available to our Members today.

In 2009 the Gold and Silver Key companies and individuals have supported a number of initiatives:

- Sponsorship of the Continue to Learn article in Greenkeeper International

- Purchase 22 new books for the BIGGA Library
  - Supported the cost of education for 28 members through the Refund of Fees Scheme
  - Subsidised the cost of Section and Region education events
  - Provided new Field Guide folders and dividers
  - Produced an updated Pest and Disease Field Guide
  - Subsidised Microsoft Online Learning packages
- The cost of these activities alone is almost £35,000.

The Gold and Silver Key companies and individuals who contributed to the Learning and Development Fund in 2009 are:

## Gold Key Companies



John Deere  
Kubota  
European Tour  
Ransomes Jacobsen  
Rigby Taylor  
Syngenta  
Toro

Individual Gold Key contributors

WJ Rogers  
Andy Campbell MG, GCGS  
Iain A Macleod  
Tom Smith  
Frank Newberry  
Christopher Lomas MG  
Lee Strutt MG

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.

## Silver Key Companies



Arc Legal Assistance  
Bernhard & Co Ltd  
Ernest Doe  
Hayter  
Heath Lambert Group  
Rain Bird  
Symbio  
Wiedenmann

Individual Silver Key contributors

Ade Archer  
Iain Barr  
Hamish Campbell  
Steve Dixon  
Paul Jenkins  
Robert Maibusch MG  
Richard McGlynn  
Stephen Pope  
Jason Sarna  
Steven Tierney  
Neil Whitaker  
Graham Wylie

Learning and Development lies at the very core of BIGGA's culture and with many projects in mind for 2010 the continued support of our Gold and Silver Key contributors is vital to allow the Association to keep moving forward and continue to enhance the reputation of its members by promoting best practice in sports turf management.

If you are interested in contributing to the Learning and Development fund as a Gold and Silver Key member, individuals should contact the Membership Department and companies should contact John Pemberton, Chief Executive.

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## Thank you to our Golden and Silver Key Sponsors



**Golden Key Individual Members:** WJ Rogers; Andy Campbell MG, GCGS; Iain A Macleod; Tom Smith; Frank Newberry; Christopher Lomas MG, Lee Strutt MG.  
**Silver Key Individual Members:** Ade Archer; Iain Barr; Hamish Campbell; Steve Dixon; Paul Jenkins; Robert Maibusch MG; Richard McGlynn; Stephen Pope; Jason Sarna; Steven Tierney; Neil Whitaker; Graham Wylie