



# Learning & Development

**Sami Collins, Head of Learning & Development, is set to be a busy, busy bee in the sunshine!**

**In days gone by Summer was traditionally the quietest time of the year when we, here at BIGGA HOUSE, could get on with all those jobs that we had been putting off all Winter. Now, no matter what the season, we are busy, busy, busy!**

For the Learning and Development Department, Summer now heralds the planning and organisation season with projects including The Open, Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year and the Harrogate Week education programme.

Running alongside the day-to-day administration that takes place, it is the crucial period to ensure that the events taking place over the next seven months are well organised so that they will (hopefully!) run in a smooth and efficient manner.

## The BIGGA Open Support Team 2010

Part of Rachael Duffy's role is to handle the organisation of the BIGGA Open Support Team, under the management of Scott MacCallum.

The planning for such an event begins, unbelievably, almost straight after the last one has finished, if not before. Accommodation is booked at least 18 months ahead of the event.

With a team of approximately 65 people to house, feed and transport to and from the venue, it is imperative that the accommodation is as close as possible, functional and flexible.

Applications are received in January/February and team selection is done in March.

From here on in Rachael is liaising with team members to ensure that they have a uniform that fits them; that any dietary requirements are met; meals are scheduled; transportation is organised; drivers are selected; the marquee has furniture, catering and a TV; staff rotas and finally, support team ticket allocation.

Alongside the rest of the BIGGA team, Rachael is on site from 6am, returning to the accommodation at approximately 8pm and remaining on duty until around 11pm to ensure that everyone has had a meal and that they know their schedule for the next day.

All this and the smile remains in place!

Good luck goes to all on the Support Team as well as the St Andrews team for the 150th Open Championship.



## Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year

Regional interviews take place this month for the 37 students who have been nominated by their college tutors for the 2010 Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award.

Eight finalists will be selected to attend the National Final, held at BIGGA House, on 13 and 14 September.



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.



## Continue to Learn at Harrogate Week 2011

The jigsaw puzzle has begun! Fitting 139½ hours of education, into 40 hours, over a five-day period is a challenge to say the least, but it will all be shoehorned in and the programme will start to take shape before my very eyes. Watch this space for more information on the subjects and speakers. The final programme will be with you in October.

## CPD

The 2009/2010 CPD year ended on 30 June and barring a few stragglers we will be awarding 95 Certificate's and 3 Diploma's of Continuing Professional Development. As the CPD scheme is 10 years old this year we will, for the first time, be awarding a second Diploma of Continuing Professional Development to 7 Members (number correct at the time of writing this article).

Certificates will be sent out in the post later this month, with the Diploma's being presented at Harrogate Week 2011.



## Higher Education Scholarships Supported by Ransomes Jacobsen

The most recent scholarship has been awarded to Gary Cunningham – NVQ Level 4 Sportsturf



## Contact Details

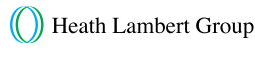
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## Thank you to our Golden and Silver Key Sponsors



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