

Learning & Development

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



As I write this month's column, I'm thinking back to my recent trip to the Golf Industry Show in San Diego, California.

I'm missing the sunshine (especially as there is thick fog surrounding BIGGA HOUSE today!) and I'm also missing the camaraderie of all the Brits who had made the trip.

Lasting relationships are formed on these trips and you find you make some friends for life.

But it's not all about sunshine and friendship, we're there to do a job and promote the Association to a world audience as well as build relationships with our counterpart organisations, the Golf Course Superintendents' Association of America (GCSAA) and the Canadian Golf Superintendents' Association (CGSA).

We are fortunate to boast very strong links with both of these Associations and their staff.

I had a very productive meeting with two of GCSAA's staff, Shari Koehler, Director of Professional Development and Penny Mitchell, Senior Director of Certification.

We spent two hours comparing and contrasting our Professional Development schemes and the Master Greenkeeper scheme to the Certified Golf Course Superintendent scheme.

I think that we all learnt a lot about each others' schemes and it has certainly given me food for thought for the reviews that are underway for both CPD and Master Greenkeeper.

Several enquiries were fielded

regarding opportunities to advertise in Greenkeeper International and also about exhibiting at Harrogate Week.

From the conversations that I was having with these potential customers, it seems that the US-based companies are keen to break into the European market and see that BIGGA, Greenkeeper International and Harrogate Week are the keys to their success.

I returned to the office with several new members signed up, applications for the Master Greenkeeper Certificate, new ideas for Continue to Learn 2011 (thanks to those who turned up to the meeting) and many photographs of covers of books taken in the GCSAA Bookstore (the wonders of a camera phone means that I didn't have to write all the titles down or bring all the books home in my suitcase – excess luggage costs would have far outweighed the cost of the trip!). Watch this space for new titles appearing in the BIGGA Library.

Two books did make the return journey with me:

How to Conduct a Competition – USGA

Golf Architecture – A Worldwide Perspective (Vol 4).

This book was a gift from Toro (and it was very heavy!)

As I sit at my desk, typing this article I am looking at the list of projects the Learning and Development Department wants to tackle this year.

At present there are 10 projects on this list, some minor, but the majority major. With the help of

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.

Rachael Duffy and the representatives who make up the Learning and Development sub-committee, we hope to bring you some new and some improved projects in 2010/2011.

Higher Education Scholarships

Supported by Ransomes Jacobsen



The most recent scholarships have been awarded to:

Jamie Blake – Online Foundation Degree – Sportsturf

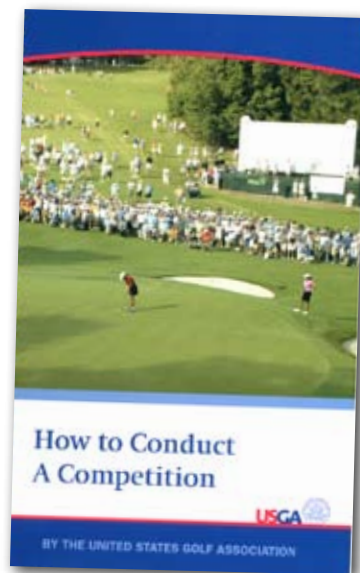
Craig Parry – SVQ Level 4 – Management

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