



# Learning & Development

Head of Learning & Development, Sami Collins, continues to tackle that huge pile of projects...

**As I alluded to in last month's article, I'm finally back in the office and working on all the projects that have been piling up on my desk since before Christmas!**



## Master Greenkeeper Certificate

The Master Greenkeeper Certificate was devised and introduced in the late 1980s, with the first Certificate being awarded in 1991 to Laurence Pithie MG. Since that date the criteria of the Certificate has remained much the same with some minor alterations to try and keep it current.

At this year's Master Greenkeeper AGM, it was agreed that the time had finally come to do a full review of the Certificate, so we're now heading towards the first meeting of the Master Greenkeeper Review Panel.

The panel comprises Andy Campbell MG, CGCS; Eric Foerster MG, CGCS; Walter Montross MG, CGCS and Lee Strutt MG, AGS. Eric and Walter have experience working with the GCSAA on the re-development of the Certified Golf Course Superintendent and we hope to tap into their knowledge during the review.

Andy and Lee have extensive experience working with the current Certificate and have also benefited from achieving either CGCS

designation or AGS (Accredited Golf Superintendent) awarded by the Canadian Golf Superintendents Association.

There's a great deal of work to do and I'll endeavour to keep you up to date with our progress.

## CPD

### Continuing Professional Development

Also high on the 'Projects' list is a review of the Continuing Professional Development scheme. Introduced in 2000, the CPD scheme was designed to allow members to record the training that they attended and receive an annual Certificate of Achievement or a Diploma after five years of Achievement.

Continuing Professional Development has become much more than a point counting exercise in recent years and the current system is no longer standing up to the requirements of the industry. As part of the alliance between BIGGA, GCMA and The PGA, CPD has been placed high on the agenda to help in the development and recognition of our members.

We have put together a small working party to develop ideas for a new scheme.

The working party alerted the Board of Directors in December 2009 that there would not be a 'quick fix' to the scheme and that a thorough review would take place to ensure that the final product was



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.

robust and serve the purposes of the Members.

Again, there's a great deal of work to be undertaken to deliver this project, but I'll keep you up to date with our progress.



### Continue to Learn at Harrogate Week 2011

Believe it or not, Harrogate Week 2011 is looming!

Planning has commenced on the Workshop and Seminar programme and we are also working on the development of a one-day conference for Head Greenkeepers and Course Managers.

As ever, it is a massive jigsaw puzzle that has to be completed by August to ensure time for it to be written, designed and printed in time for the marketing of the event which commences in October.

Watch this space for announcements.



### Higher Education Scholarships



Supported by Ransomes Jacobsen

The most recent scholarship has been awarded to:

Timothy Johnson – BSc in Turfgrass Science (Online)

**Contact Details**

Sami Collins  
Head of L&D  
sami@bigga.co.uk

Rachael Duffy  
L&D Administrator  
rachael@bigga.co.uk

01347 833800 (option 3)  
www.bigga.org.uk

## Thank you to our Golden and Silver Key Sponsors



**Golden Key Individual Members:** WJ Rogers; Andy Campbell MG, CGCS; 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, Michael Beaton, Douglas Duguid