

Learning & Development

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



That was the week that was.... and what a week it was!

Rachael and I are soaking our feet while looking aghast at the attendance figures for the Continue to Learn Education Programme. Now we know why we're so tired and our feet still hurt!



Continue to Learn 2011 delivered 143.5 hours of education to 2008 attendees. The Queen's Suite was buzzing with the queues outside the auditoriums for some of the most popular seminars. On a couple of occasions there was standing room only and a couple of prominent Course Managers were spotted sitting on the floor to ensure that they could participate in the session.

The introduction of the Turf Managers' Conference proved to be a success with superb feedback on the speakers and the content of their presentations.

Dr David Jones from the Natural History Museum, aka 'the worm man', equally educated and entertained the audience with many requesting his return to future programmes.

The 'Fringe' sessions, presented by exhibitors at the show, were as popular as ever. The more established speakers imparted their knowledge to enthusiastic audiences, with newer speakers attracting a credible number of attendees.

I am forever indebted to all the

speakers who (sometimes with a little coaxing) agree to speak on the Continue to Learn education programme. Without them, there wouldn't be an education programme to present.

The new challenge is to replicate the success in 2012 – no pressure!

A HUGE thank you goes to the Gold and Silver Key companies and individuals to the Learning and Development Fund for their support in enabling us to present Continue to Learn at Harrogate Week.

Pesticide Update for NPTC Certificate Holders

Health and Safety advisor, Jon Allbutt has confirmed that the possession of a City and Guilds/ NPTC Pesticides Certificate that is more than five years old may not be accepted as evident of competence, unless the holder has updated their skills and knowledge and kept pace with the many changes in this important legislation, the Code of Practice, application equipment and techniques for the control of pests and diseases.

Following an oversubscribed workshop at Harrogate, there are a number of Update Courses being presented. For up to date availability, contact Jane Glassett at Jon Allbutt Associates on 01959 575575 or visit the Events' page on the BIGGA website.

The current Pesticides Code of practice for using plant protection products is now available as a free download in the Members' Area of the BIGGA website.



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The funding provided by Gold 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 Gold and Silver Key Sponsors.

Thank you to our Gold and Silver Key Sponsors



Gold Key Individual Members: Steven Tierney; WJ Rogers; Andy Campbell MG, CGCS; Iain A Macleod; Frank Newberry; Andrew Turnbull; Ian MacMillan MG; Ian Morrison

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