

Learning & Development

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



'Seven Days in Sunny June' by Jamiroquai is one of my favourite summer songs, however, I am hoping for more than seven days of sunshine this June!

It was with great sadness that I learnt of the passing of Nick Bisset. Nick was a great supporter of BIGGA and The GTC.

He was instrumental in the development of the original Master Greenkeeper Certificate and right up until his passing, was one of the examiners for the Certificate.

His passion for education was unwavering and this was reinforced by his role as the Chairman of The GTC Technical Committee.

I am fortunate to have known and worked with Nick for 18 years, also sharing a trip to the GCSAA show in Orlando back in the 1990's.

All those whose lives he has touched will miss him.

CPD

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Continuing Professional Development

For those of you active on the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) scheme, it's that time of year that the reminder letters will land on your doormat reminding you that the CPD year is coming to a close on 30 June.

With this in mind, you need to forward any outstanding CPD credit claim forms to Rachael, so that she can update your record and your CPD Certificate for 2010/2011 can be produced.

For those of you heading towards your 5th or 10th consecutive Certificate it also means you'll be getting notification of receiving your Diploma for Continuing Professional Development.

If you have any queries regarding CPD, please contact Rachael on 01347 833800 (option 3) or by email to rachael@bigga.co.uk.



Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award 2011

Entries for this year's Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award closed last month.

We will see 31 student greenkeepers competing for a place in the National Final and ultimately for their chance to win the Toro Scholarship to the Winter Turf School at the University of Massachusetts and a trip to the Golf Industry Show in Las Vegas. Local interviews will be taking place in early July. Details of the finalists will appear in this column in the August magazine.



Safety Management System

Work is continuing on the new look Safety Management System. There have been a few challenging moments (!) but Gill Bridle from the Golf Club Managers' Association and myself are beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel.

Bear with us, we promise there will be a new system available soon!



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.



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



Harrogate Week 2012

The Harrogate Week 2012 programme is slowly developing in my mind. A great many calls will be made over the next few weeks to begin confirming speakers and sketching out the Conference, Workshop and Seminar schedules. I always liken this process to doing a jigsaw – usually it resembles one of those that have 1000 pieces all with baked beans on! Watch this space.



BIGGA Higher Education Scholarships

Supported by Ransomes Jacobsen

There are funds available for those members who are applying for, or undertaking a Higher Education course. For further information on the application process, visit www.bigga.org.uk/education/resources/higher-education-scholarships



Master Greenkeeper Certificate

I am delighted to announce we have two new Master Greenkeepers: *Mike Bush MG - St Mellion Hotel & Country Club, Cornwall* and *Dan McGrath MG - North Foreland Golf Club, Kent*
My congratulations go to them both

Thank you to our Gold and Silver Key Sponsors



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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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