

Learning & Development

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



It's good to finally see the lighter nights and feel some warmth in the sun. I think my song for this month will be 'Lovely Day' by Bill Withers. Long may these lovely days last!

Work has been steadily progressing on the new look Safety Management System website and it looks like the launch date will be later this month, so watch the website and see next month's magazine for full details.



Learning and Development Fund

The development of training resources and funding for education for Members would not be possible without the contributions made by the Gold and Silver Key members of BIGGA to the Learning and Development Fund.

Both companies and individuals contribute to the fund and they are recognised at the bottom of this page every month.

In 2010, thanks to contributions to the fund, we have supported 14 members with a refund of fees for their education, provided subsidies for several sections and all of the Regions, reprinted field guides, bought new books for the library and introduced the 'How To...' Guides.

Funds were also used to support Continue to Learn at Harrogate

Week 2011, the most successful education programme that we have run to date.

My thanks go out to all of our Gold and Silver Key supporters on behalf of all of the Members.



Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award 2011

2011 marks the 23rd year that BIGGA have been running and administering the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award.

Over the years we have seen many of the winners go on to become Course Managers at prestigious golf courses around the country.

The opportunity to win the Toro Scholarship, to the Winter Turf School at the University of Massachusetts, is open to all students who are studying for a Diploma in Greenkeeping (SVQ Level 2), a Diploma in Golf Course Supervision (SVQ Level 3) or an HNC qualification.

Two runners-up will win a trip to Harrogate Week 2012 including the Continue to Learn education programme.

To enter the Award, students must be nominated by their college tutor and should be available to attend a local interview the week commencing July 4.

Application forms are available to download from the website:

www.bigga.org.uk/education/awards.



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.



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Continue to Learn at Harrogate Week 2012

It's truly amazing how quickly the year flies by, with planning for the Continue to Learn education programme already underway for January 2012.

With the return of the Turf Managers' Conference, the Workshops and the Seminars, it promises to be another packed programme.

If you have any suggestions or specific topics that you would like to see included in the 2012 programme, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Suggestions need to be made by Friday, May 13 at the latest.

You can contact me via email to: sami@bigga.co.uk



BIGGA Higher Education Scholarships

Supported by Ransomes Jacobsen

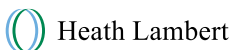
The most recent scholarship has been awarded to:

Anthony Stockwell
– Master of Professional Studies, Sportsturf.

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

Silver Key Individual Members: Ade Archer; Steve Dixon; Paul Jenkins; Richard McGlynn; Sam Langrick; Neil Whitaker; Graham Wylie, Michael Beaton, Douglas Duguid, Derek Grendowicz, Jaey Goodchild