



# Learning & Development

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

I'd like to begin this article by congratulating Rachael on the extraordinary efforts that went into the organisation of the Open Support team last month. Rachael faced several challenges during the week and survived them all!

Congratulations must also go to Paul Smith and his team at Royal Lytham and St Annes and to the entire volunteer support team.

Congratulations must also go to Chris Haspell and his team up at Castle Stuart and to all those who volunteered for the Scottish Open.



**Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award**

Last month, I headed off to interview candidates for the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award.

Following my whirlwind trip of the country, where I took in St Albans, Tonbridge, Bristol, York, Stoke on Trent and Perth, we selected six candidates to go forward to the National Final taking place at BIGGA House on 16 and 17 September.

The finalists are:

Christopher Watson from Peterculter Golf Club, representing Elmwood College

Peter Thompson from Sunningdale Golf Club, representing Oaklands College

Neil Ivamy from Trevoise Golf & Country Club, representing Duchy College

Stuart Imeson from Dunstanburgh Castle Golf Club, representing Newcastle College

Aaron Launchbury from North Foreland Golf Club, representing Hadlow College

Thomas Flavelle from Lingdale Golf Club, representing Myerscough College

Further details about each of the finalists can be found on pages 28-29.

The interview panel comprised of a BIGGA Regional Administrator, a representative from Lely (UK) Ltd



**Gold Key Individual Members:**  
Steven Tierney MG, Chris Lomas MG, Andrew Campbell MG CGCS Ian MacMillan MG, Ian Morrison Andrew Turnbull, W J Rogers, Sam Langrick, Antony Calvert, Espen Bergmann  
**Silver Key Individual Members:**  
Steve Dixon, Richard McGlynn Douglas Duguid, Ade Archer Jaey Goodchild, Graham Wiley Michael Beaton, Paul Jenkins

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.

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on behalf of Toro, a BIGGA greenkeeper member and myself.

My thanks go to: Clive Osgood; Jane Jones; Sandra Raper; John Young; Larry Pearman; John Pike; Nigel Lovatt; Gerald Bruce; Alan Pierce MG; John Keenaghan; Gary Cunningham and Stuart Taylor for their involvement in the interview and selection process.

I wish all six finalists the very best of luck and look forward to welcoming them to BIGGA House in September.



**Continue to Learn at BTME 2013**

The education programme is shaping up to be another not to be missed event!

We will be welcoming Dr Thom Nikolai, The Doctor of Green Speed, from Michigan State University.

Thom is a specialist in putting green management that maximizes turfgrass health, investment and customer satisfaction.

He will be presenting several sessions during the week including a one-day workshop on 'The A, B, C's of Putting Green Maintenance', a session on the Turf Managers' Conference and a Seminar Session.

The workshop programme will

also feature many of our very successful workshops and presenters including:

**So You Want to be a Golf Course Manager – Peter Jones and Kevin Munt**

**Moving into Management – Frank Newberry**

**Irrigation System Management and Design – Adrian and Dennis Mortram**

**How to be an Outstanding Manager Parts 2 and 4 – Shona Garner (above)**

**IT Business Administration – Jacky Lowe**

**Pesticide Update for NPTC Certificate Holders – Jon Allbutt**

**Basic Budgeting and Golf Club Finance – Jerry Kilby & Duncan Ritchie**

New and returning workshops include:

**Health and Safety Documentation – Jon Allbutt**

**The Grass Plant – Dr Paul Miller**

**The Soil – Dr Paul Miller**

**Basic Golf Mechanics – Hanfried Sievers**

**Diagnostics and Problem Solving – Hanfried Sievers**

With a full seminar programme and the introduction of Focus On sessions, this will be an education programme not to be missed!