



Learning & Development

Sami Collins, BIGGA Learning & Development Manager, with an update on education issues

Bon Jovi wrote a song called "I'll sleep when I'm dead" - I certainly slept the sleep of the dead the weekend following the most successful Continue to Learn education programme ever! Now that I'm back at my desk, it almost feels as if it never happened although I now have the figures in front of me to prove that it did.

We saw over 2,400 people through the doors to the Queen's Suite to attend the education programme, breaking all previous records. A big thank you must go to all of you for your continued support of the education.

Thom Nikolai 'The Doctor of Green Speed' from Michigan State University proved to be a big draw, selling out his workshop, 'The A, B, C's of Putting Green Maintenance', attracting the largest audience at the Turf Managers' Conference and giving us a capacity audience for his seminar 'Managing for Green Speed'. To quote Thom "I have never enjoyed myself more at a conference, I have never been in a friendlier place in my life".

The Ryder Cup seminars were extremely popular with near or capacity audiences. Featuring course managers Jim McKenzie (Celtic Manor, 2010), Curtis Tyrrell, MG, CGCS (Medinah, 2012) and Steve Chappell (Gleneagles, 2014) entertaining the audience with behind the scene stories, photographs and experiences. Curtis



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, Espen Bergmann,
Nick Gray

Silver Key Individual Members:
Steve Dixon, Richard McGlynn
Douglas Duguid, Jaey Goodchild,
Graham Wiley, Michael Beaton,
Paul Jenkins, Justin Cheung

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.



thoroughly enjoyed his visit to the UK - I think we might be seeing him grace the BTME show again in the future!

The introduction of the "Focus On" sessions proved to be a successful addition to the programme with the majority sold out. Hopefully you will see an increase in this type of session in future years.

The seminar pre-booking for BIGGA members worked fairly well, but will have a polish for next year to improve the system. My thanks go to those patient attendees who had to stand in queues and experience my loud voice!

My personal thanks go to all the presenters who provide professional and quality education and make it look so easy. The challenge now begins again to develop the programme for 2014. Send your ideas to: sami@bigga.co.uk.

You can be selected by showing initiative in your current position, by demonstrating an interest in the industry or being actively involved in education at region and national level.

The FTMI will take place at Ransomes Jacobsen's headquarters in Ipswich from 3 - 5 April 2013. It will be an intensive three days of seminars, talks and workshops covering;

- communications
- budgeting
- team management
- CV writing and interview techniques
- volunteering
- Plus break-out sessions on other subjects

Apply now by visiting the Members Area of the BIGGA website and following the link to complete an online application form.

There are only 20 places available for this inaugural event. Get online and complete your application before the closing date of 15 February 2013.

All applications must be endorsed by the manager, supervisor, regional administrator or trade representative.

If you have any queries, please contact Stuart Green on 01347 833800 (option 3) or stuart@bigga.co.uk.

Future Turf Managers Initiative



Jacobsen turf equipment and BIGGA have developed a highly interactive, professional development conference, designed to provide younger greenkeepers with the tools to go further in our industry.

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