



Learning & Development

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

Every year I wonder where the first two months of the year go, when my feet finally touch the ground I realise that it's March already. This year it has been especially busy as Lee Strutt and I got married the day after returning from the Golf Industry Show in San Diego! After almost 20 years in the industry as Sami Collins, I'll now be known as Sami Strutt so don't go ignoring my emails and phone calls thinking "I have no idea who that is!"

Golf Industry Show

The Golf Industry Show made a welcome return to San Diego in February. BIGGA were represented by Jim Croxton, Tony Smith (Chairman) and myself along with the BIGGA Delegation in association with Bernhard & Co. Although the weather was not what was expected in Southern California, the show delivered a vast array of education and exhibitors.

Many familiar faces visited the BIGGA stand and with the able assistance of the ten 'boys' from the delegation we handled enquiries about the services that BIGGA offers as well as selling a couple of memberships in the process.

For the delegation it is a full-on week with almost every minute filled. We did however manage to fit in a couple of birthday celebrations one evening for Messrs Norsworthy and Parker, with the able assistance of some Hooters Girls (young and slightly older versions – no comments please boys!!).

The annual meeting with GCSAA's education team was as informative as ever with discussions taking place regarding the education offered at our shows and how this can be enhanced, administration matters (boring for most but invaluable for us!) and exchanges of ideas to improve what we do. A big thanks to the BIGGA delegation for your company and I hope you have now all recovered!



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.

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BIGGA Delegation at the Golf Industry Show

Future Turf Managers Initiative



Applications for the inaugural Future Turf Managers Conference are now closed with 45 applicants vying for 20 places. The selection process will have taken place by the time you read this and next month I will report on who's been successful.



Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award 2013

This year we celebrate 25 years of the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award. With past winners including Euan Grant from Turnberry and Murray Long from Sunningdale as well as our most recent winner, Thomas Flavelle, this prestigious award is highly sought after.

Applications for the 2013 Award have been sent out to all colleges and training providers offering Sportsturf qualifications. If you are studying for a Diploma in Greenkeeping; Diploma in Golf Course

Supervision; SVQ Level 2 or 3; National Certificate or National Diploma courses and are a resident in the UK or the Republic of Ireland, you are eligible.

To be entered for the amazing opportunity of winning the eight-week Toro Scholarship to study at the University of Massachusetts, visit Toro headquarters and travel to Orlando for the Golf Industry Show, you must be nominated by your greenkeeping tutor. If you believe that you could be the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year 2013, talk to your tutor today about applying.

