

L&D News

The latest from the Learning and Development department at BIGGA



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GREATER RECOGNITION FOR BIGGA'S COMMERCIAL PARTNERS

BIGGA has created a series of new packages aimed to improve the recognition given to the Association's invaluable supporters. For many years the Gold and Silver Key sponsorships have been the only vehicle for recognising the huge support given to BIGGA's Learning & Development activity by our many commercial partners. Over time this support has developed and now includes far more than donations to the Learning & Development Fund.

We have introduced the title of BIGGA Partner for those organisations who actively engage with BIGGA's education programme through scholarships and other initiatives as well as contributing important funding. Many of the former Gold Key sponsors fall into this category.

Additionally we have created BIGGA Education Supporters to give recognition to those companies previously known as Silver Key Sponsors. These companies financially support the Learning & Development Fund on an annual basis.

BIGGA CEO Jim Croxton said: "The original Gold and Silver Key packages needed updating to ensure all our loyal supporters receive appropriate recognition and value for their support of the Fund, and our wider educational activity such as Student of the Year, Continue to Learn and Scholarships. These new categories better recognise this outstanding support."

"The Learning & Development Fund has been instrumental in aiding BIGGA members to develop their skills and

knowledge. Our many supporting sponsors have, through the Gold and Silver Key programme, provided hundreds of thousands of pounds to be used specifically for greenkeeper education.

"The Fund is utilised at all levels; individual refunds of fees, Section/Regional subsidies and National initiatives as well as to fund the production of learning materials and building our impressive lending library."

BIGGA are hugely grateful to all Partners and Education Supporters - and the many Individual Contributors - as the funding they provide goes a long way to underpinning our Continuing Professional Development programme and all educational activity.



We Need YOU

Interested in presenting an education event at BTME 2015?

- Submit your 'Proposal to Present' through the link on the BIGGA website
- The BIGGA Membership will vote on all of the viable proposals
- The most voted for proposals will be included as a "Members Choice" event in the Continue to Learn at BTME 2015 programme
- Closing date for all 'Proposal to Present' applications is 25 April 2014

HUNDREDS LOG ON TO NEW CPD

Our new CPD system really seems to be catching your imagination as new figures show how members have made nearly three thousand claims since the improved scheme was launched last year.

Stuart Green, BIGGA's L&D Executive (Technical), explained: "Since turning the system on in November, 773 members have made 2,729 claims, which averages out at approximately 4 claims per member. Of these claims, a total of 15,303 credits have been claimed since 1 July 2013.

"The reason for the difference in the dates is a member can claim back to when we launched the new programme on 1 July. So that's nearly 3,000 claims in four and a half months!

"The new system makes it easier for members to claim credits and more opportunities to claim credits."

Members can't fail to have noticed BIGGA's increased focus on CPD with articles in



Greenkeeper International, input at the Regional Conferences and many other initiatives.

This is just the start, we will keep increasing CPD visibility and ensuring the message gets across that it's absolutely vital for your professional and personal development.

Stuart explained exactly how to claim credits in February's Greenkeeper International (BTME 2014 review edition).

Anyone with any questions about CPD can also contact any member of the L&D team – contact details are shown right.

BARONNESS

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING

Thanks to generous support from Baroness, Scholarships for BIGGA members undertaking their Level 3 qualification in Sportsturf are available.

Designed to help greenkeeper members of BIGGA gain their technical and supervisory qualification, the scholarships may be awarded to those studying for the following:

- Level 3 Work-based diploma in Amenity Horticulture (Greenkeeper).
- SVQ Level 3 Sports Turf Management.

For more details and to apply, visit bigga.org.uk/education/funding-opportunities.



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