



Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund

BIGGA GOLDEN KEY and SILVER KEY MEMBERSHIP

Unlock the doors to progress through BIGGA's Education and Development Fund - the key to a great future for greenkeepers, golf clubs and the game of golf.

Golden and Silver Key Membership is available to both companies and individuals.

For details, please contact Ken Richardson on 01247 833900 or via kent@bigga.co.uk

Golden Key Supporters

Golden Key Company Members

Company	Tel: Head Office
AGCO (Machinery Programme)	02438 851286
John Deere Ltd	01569 805991
Kubota Ltd	01844 214000
PGA Equipment Team	01344 843881
Highly Taylor Ltd	01204 677777
Scotts UK Professional	01473 826992
Ransomes Jacobsen Ltd	01473 270000
The Toro Company Ltd	01480 220000

Golden Key Individual Members

Jim Hyatt, Ian Ginnelby, Neil Rogers, Chris Youston, Andy Campbell MSc, CGCS, Ian A MacLeod, Tom Smith, Bruce Croft-Hank, Frank Newberg, Andrew Corrie, Christopher Lomas MSc.

Silver Key Supporters

Silver Key Company Members

Company	Tel: Head Office
Bentford and Company Ltd	01788 811600
Ernest Doe & Sons	01245 980391
General Legal Professional Ltd	01904 611600
Hayter Ltd	01279 724444
Health Lambert Group	0113 285 1333
Novozymes Biologicals	01789 290990
Rainbird	01273 891426
Symbio	01372 496081
Syngenta Professional Products	0047 672 212 029
TurfTrax Group Ltd	01127 438888

Silver Key Individual Members

Clive Archer, Douglas G Dupont, Robert Malbusch MSc, Steven Tinsley, Roger Barber, Neil Temple, Paul Jenkins, Robert Hoggan, Nicholas Goss, Trevor Smith, Ian Barr, Richard McGlynn, Alex McCombie, Paul Murphy, Rossfeath College, Steve Dixon, Ian Bennett.

Anyone contacting the Education and Training Department during April would have realised that both Sami and I were not in the office for a good part of the month. Sami was recovering from surgery on her knee and I was researching the effect of seawater on fine sand in the Maldives writes Ken Richardson.

The AGCS/BIGGA Safety Management System TORO Student of the Year Competition



As I mentioned in the April edition of Greenkeeper International, the internet based Safety Management System is nearing completion and it should be available to all members during this month. You will find an information leaflet in this magazine and we will be distributing a 'getting started guide' in next month's magazine.

Many golf clubs already have very good safety management systems whereas some do not have any form of health and safety management. This SMS will enable golf clubs to implement a safety management system that will make their clubs better and safer places to work and they might even save money on insurance premiums.

The SMS is not a 'turn key' solution. Clubs will need to put in some effort to ensure that the System works for their club. Some clubs may not have anyone competent to implement the SMS and they will have to employ the services of a health and safety advisor or have a person or persons trained.

All employees of the club should be involved in implementing the SMS and should receive training in risk assessment and basic health and safety management.

The AGCS/BIGGA SMS contains a wide range of health and safety information, including example risk profiles for the Clubhouse, for the kitchens, for the Pro Shop, for the Golf Course, for greenkeeping activities and for the Maintenance Facility. Each Risk Profile is linked to example Risk Assessments that should help you assess risks at your golf club. Risk Profiles are also linked to detailed information on a wide range of hazards from Airborne Dust and Debris to Young People at Work.

The Risk Profiles and Risk Assessments have been developed by a team of Golf Course Managers, Golf Club Secretaries and Health and Safety Advisers to meet the needs of most golf clubs. However, clubs must ensure that all risks and hazards at their clubs are included in their Risk Profiles and in their Risk Assessments.



The deadline for entries to the TORO Student of the Year Competition is May 4. However, there is still time for training providers to nominate their

candidates. The Regional Finals will take place during the week commencing July 2, when a team of judges will select the eight national finalists. The National Final will take place on September 17 at BIGGA House.

For more details or for an application form please contact BIGGA House.



Mike Emptage, last year's Toro Student of the Year

BIGGA Golf Environment Competition



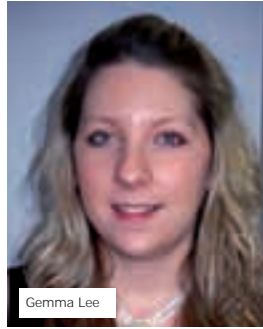
You should be receiving an application form for the 2007 Golf Environment Competition during May. We are able to continue this competition only with the generous support of our sponsors. Unfortunately, one of our 2006 sponsors, Course Care, have decided that they no longer wish to continue their sponsorship and we are, therefore, struggling to make the competition viable.

This competition has gained a reputation for encouraging golf clubs to use sound environmental management principles and to show the general public that golf helps the environment.

If there is anyone out there who would like to help make this competition a continuing success by helping with the sponsorship for 2007, please contact Sami or me as soon as possible.

A SAD GOODBYE

Unfortunately Membership Services Assistant, Gemma Lee, has decided to leave BIGGA for Portakabin in York, where she will be working in Human Resources. She will be missed in the Membership Department and I am sure you will all miss her too as she has proved to be an irreplaceable part of the BIGGA team.



Gemma Lee

I would like to thank Gemma for all the help she has given me over the past few months and wish her all the best in her new job.

Brad Anderson, who normally works on reception, will be filling in for Gemma for the time being.

Vanessa Depré



Brad Anderson

RINGING RENEWALS

If you would like a quick renewal you can give us a ring and renew over the phone with your credit/debit card.



COMPETITION UPDATE

You may remember that last month I mentioned a competition we won concerning membership. This is what the Membership Development Awards said about BIGGA:

Retention Award – Runner Up

British and International Golf Greenkeepers' Association (BIGGA)

// The entry shows BIGGA as an association that is genuinely concerned for its members and understands what they want from their organisation.

They took a series of measures to improve renewals to increase retention.

The key highlights of the BIGGA campaign:

- The campaign was research driven.
- Various hurdles were identified and removed to make it easier to respond, including removing the need for Greenkeepers to stamp the name of their golf course on the renewal form, instant renewal of all those members on the direct debit scheme and the introduction of a new one instalment payment option.
- It was a people oriented campaign; renewal reminders were written in a friendly tone
- They identified unemployed members as vulnerable, and made special provision to help them. This gives the Association a caring image of an organisation whose members matter.
- They made good use of a striking creative theme and image on the outer envelope and letterhead.
- To promote membership benefits, the renewals pack was revised and included benefit sheets and a brochure, and the website was updated with more information on member benefits.

//

NEW MEMBERS

BIGGA welcomes the following new members this month:

SCOTTISH REGION

Thomas Adams, Central
Russell Aird, West
Kenneth Ambrose, West
Fraser Anderson, East
David Baird, Ayrshire
Kieran Coll, Central
Graham Copland, Central
Jamie Duncan, Ayrshire
Sue Glen, East
Jack Glen, West
Alan Jack, West
Gary Kilday, Central
Brian Logue, West
Andrew Marshall, West
Clark Mccarron, West
Raymond Perrins, Central
George Taggart, Ayrshire

Paul Hewitt, East Anglia
Ashleigh Latter, East Anglia
Daniel Norsworthy, Surrey
Jonathan Novis, Sussex
Clive Smith, Surrey

SOUTH WEST & WALES

Thomas Baker, South Coast
Alan Benson, Devon & Cornwall
Steven Bishop, South West
Jason Chidley, Devon & Cornwall
Vincent Harris, South Wales
Adam Mitchell, Devon & Cornwall
Lauchlan Morrison, South Coast
William Paull, Devon & Cornwall
Darren Pearce, South Coast
David Perkins, South Coast
Luke Pound, South West
Peter Williams, South West

INTERNATIONAL MEMBERS

Brian Barnes, N Ireland
Steen Nic Olsen, Denmark
Manfred Sakowski, Germany
Matthias Stumm, Germany
Doug Meyer, Canada

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Peter Easton, Central Scotland
Paul Rolfe, Midland
Ian Hugglestone, South West

CORPORATE MEMBERS

David Howells, North West
Mark Hunt, East Midlands
Iain Richardson, Berks/Bucks & Oxon
James Watson, Surrey

E & D FUND

Simon Barnaby, South East
Andrew Janman, Devon & Cornwall

NORTHERN REGION

Stephen Gardner, Northern
Matthew Hollgh, North West
Charles Land, North Wales
Kerry Shotton, North East
James Talbot, North West
Daniel Tench, North West
Christopher Westwood, North West

MIDLAND REGION

Roger Jennings, Berks/Bucks & Oxon
John Meade, Midland
Christopher Nunn, Berks/Bucks & Oxon
Matthew Turner, Midland
Sebastian Welsh, Berks/Bucks & Oxon
Luke Wilson, East Midland
Craig Wyatt, East Midland

SOUTH EAST

Decebal Ahdrohic, Surrey
Neil Baker, Surrey
Stuart Bedford, Surrey
Tim Buckley, Surrey
Richard Buick, Sussex
Jimmy Butler, Surrey
Simon Campbell, Surrey



Lee Dunn, Director of MYPEC, visited BIGGA HQ to present Sales Manager, Rosie Hancher and Membership Services Assistant, Gemma Lee, with the departments Runner-Up award.



The world's No 1 in Vacuum Sweepers

Scarify and Collect in one easy pass with TRILO

Trilo vacuum, sweep, scarify, cut, spread and blow!



PTO SCARIFIER



FLEXISPREAD



TD2000



SG400

0% finance available on SG400*

With 35 years' experience and a range of quality machinery, it's easy to see why Trilo is the world-leader in vacuum sweepers. Built to an extremely high standard, the wide choice of models and numerous options available ensures you can trust Trilo to make your job easier and more efficient. Trilo have a range of quality high specification groundcare equipment which offers the complete solution for scarifying, cutting, spreading and blowing.

Call us today for a demo



HIRE, SALES, PARTS & SERVICE

Trilo UK Ltd

Wadebridge Farm, Landwade Exning, Newmarket, Suffolk CB8 7NE
Tel: (01638) 720123 Fax: (01638) 720128 www.trilo.co.uk

*Terms & conditions apply

The perfect approach to quality course signage

Signs & Design

Tee Signs & Accessories



Get in contact with us today for our 2007 catalogue, now with new S&D Ballwashers.

Or visit our new website at www.golfcoursesigns.co.uk for the latest offers and news.



Tel: 01606 738833

E: info@golfcoursesigns.co.uk

W: www.golfcoursesigns.co.uk



DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

On February 21, I was invited to Saint James Palace by the Duke of Edinburgh to be presented with my Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award. I dressed in my smartest clothes and my BIGGA tie and headed off for the railway station.

When I arrived at St James' I could see lots of people, all very smartly dressed and many of the ladies wearing hats waiting outside. Police horses on guard were also present.

Everything was very well organised, people were directed to different entrances according to their ticket colour. Security was very strict and you were required to produce two forms of identification, one of which had to be photo ID. Inside, everywhere was very plush and grand, deep pile carpets, oil paintings and lots of gold trimmings.

There was a band playing and we found our way to the State Room. Award winners sat on chairs to the left of the long high-ceiling room, and the one guest allowed per person sat opposite them to the right. There were a number of important dignitaries and celebrities present, speeches and then Bill Turnbull, the BBC breakfast presenter, presented us with our awards.

The Duke of Edinburgh walked through the room talking to people. He was taller than I'd expected and I thought he looked very fit and well for a man of his age. He seemed interested in people and liked to laugh. He did say, "I expect you are all going on to University" I thought certainly NOT me! The Duke asked me "Where did you go for your expedition?" I answered "The Pyrenees Mountains." Then he asked what the weather had been like. I said, "The weather in the mountains can change very quickly and we experienced the most violent storm I had ever seen while we were camping high in the mountains and I thought the tent might blow away." He then moved on.

I really enjoyed the experience and shall always remember the day as it is so different from what I usually do every day.

Stephen Burroughs
Stock Brook Manor Golf Club



A SAD GOODBYE

Hi, my name is James McCormack and I am the Head Greenkeeper at Kirriemuir Golf Club.

It is with regret that I have to inform you of the death of Mr William Ritchie, who, for over 30 years was Head Greenkeeper at Kirriemuir GC.

Willie was a past winner of the Scottish Greenkeeper of the Year Award in 1969 which was then sponsored by Fisons.

Willie looked after Kirriemuir GC from the end of Second World War until his retirement.

He was a good golfer with a handicap of three and was a past club champion of Kirriemuir on several occasions, as well as a former Club Captain and Match and Competition Secretary.

He attended greenkeeper outings and one or two greenkeepers will have a few stories to tell about Willie as he was not prone to a dram or two.

When I got the job at Kirriemuir he was still golfing at that time and was always willing to give any advice or encouragement, his favourite saying was remember you have 500 greenkeepers and one golfer and the golfer, that is you.

Thank You
James McCormack

YOUR LETTERS ARE REQUESTED!


Send to:

Scott MacCallum, Editor, Greenkeeper International, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Aline, York YO61 1UF, or email them to: scott@bigga.co.uk or: melissa@bigga.co.uk



The secret is revealed...

NOW AVAILABLE



For more information or demo disk please phone: 01347 833800
Contact: Rosie Hancher or Floss Chaffer

OnCourse™

Complete Sports Club Management Software

Endorsed by BIGGA

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN...

By Roger Davey

It's time to ensure that the irrigation system is ready for the next six months, and to take into account all associated aspects of its operation!

Water Source/Supply

The source/supply of water can be from either mains water supply, winter storage reservoir, summer borehole supply or emergency top-up (borehole), grey water, or treated sewage effluent.

Whatever the source, the end user must ensure that the supply is adequate and provides enough water for the areas in question. Is it also licensed and legal? Is it regularly tested for pH, N, P, K and trace elements? Is it tested for associated disease risks – ie, Weils disease/Legionella? (The risk, although slight, is obvious; warming water in pipelines or tanks breeding germs ready for atomisation and drift in front of the paying public.)

The storage areas must be adequately signed, be capable of holding the required volume of water, and be safe in its operation within the irrigation system. This all may sound obvious. But the writer has witnessed – prior to alerting the gentleman in question – undiluted hydrochloric acid being poured into a reservoir by someone standing on a plank of wood across two milk crates!

Pumping Stations

The pump station is the heart of the system and incorrectly configured or maintained it's a death trap. Too low a flow and the sprinklers are ineffective, too low a pressure and the sprinklers are ineffective, too high a pressure (without pressure regulation in place) and the sprinklers are ineffective.

What else does the Greenkeeper come near to that operates usually at 8.0 bar pressure (80 metres), and relies on high-voltage power to work correctly? - Water, electricity and pressure – a lethal combination.

The pump station must be adequately signed, the pressure vessel safe to use/certified, a risk assessment be in place, and adequate segregation provided (8.0 bar pressure will blow a valve stem 240 feet into the air before coming down!). Therefore leaking or weeping pumps, slippery floors, poorly earthed pumps, and inadequately signed pumphouses all need to be addressed before we even look into the pump duty!

Underground Mainline

Usually manufactured from UPVC and jointed every six metres, or possibly a more modern system which should



Poor pressure and droplet distribution

have Medium Density or High Performance polyethylene as the mainline piping materials.

UPVC is prone to age deterioration, typically a system over approximately 20 to 25 years old (some less than this) will suffer from leakage, which reduces pressure and reduces sprinkler performance, as well as wasting water and reducing efficiency of usage.

Underground pipelines must be sized to take into account required water flows and pressures at the sprinkler: too small a pipeline size creates a higher velocity, more friction loss, more water hammer, more joint damage and less water/pressure at the sprinkler.

To operate sprinklers effectively, friction loss and static differences have to be calculated to understand the ability of the pump to deliver the required flow and pressure at the point required.



A wet pumphouse floor needs addressing



Count on it.

Solenoid Valve Assemblies and Solenoid Valves

Solenoid valves should be installed within assemblies and chambers that allow easy access, are clean/free of debris, and enable manual operation of the system if required.

Many valve assemblies within ageing irrigation systems are incorrectly installed, within poorly installed chambers, with products that are prone to failure as they age-harden and corrode.

Solenoid valves should be pressure-regulating in operation, allowing the correct downstream pressure into the sprinklers preventing over-pressurisation of the droplet and subsequent wind drift. Poorly installed chambers, cracked lids, leaking or weeping or corroded valve assemblies all create a health and safety risk to both the operator and golfer, and should be repaired or replaced as soon as possible.



Poorly configured assembly with poor cable joints.

Sprinklers

All sprinklers (greens, tees, approaches, fairways) should be regularly inspected for correct operation – ie, pop-up action, nozzle performance/pressure, action in operation, radius of throw and correct retraction.

For sprinklers to achieve uniform application they must be evenly spaced, throw at least head-to-head, and be set correctly within the turf. Once this is achieved, accurate precipitation rates, and run times, can be calculated which will improve water use and efficiency and provide a more consistent turf area.

Sprinkler models and mode of operation will also play a huge part in uniformity and reliability. For example, modern

sprinklers have nozzles and gear-drive units designed to higher tolerances, thus providing much higher uniformity across the area of coverage. Whereas other older sprinklers lose efficiency, have non-uniform rotation speeds, and worn nozzles. Liken the sprinkler to an engine, the older it is, the more likely it is to be inefficient, underpowered and to lose reliability.

Upgrading just the sprinkler is never the full answer as the spacing and flow to the units is as crucial as the sprinkler itself. However a faulty sprinkler that does not rotate is no good to man nor beast! While on the subject of servicing sprinklers, do you have a clearly defined staff risk assessment?!

Control System

How much water do you apply to your green/tee/fairway – eight minutes, 10 when it's really hot! Rubbish! It's millimetres we need to calculate in, millimetres per sq m per day. And it can be done (remember 1 cu m of water is 220 gallons).

So, how much water do you want to apply to your green/tee/fairway today – 3mm per sq m? I have calculated the daily evapotranspiration rate, measured the sprinkler head and row spacing and checked the nozzle data, and I therefore need to run the station/sprinkler for six minutes...now that's better, we can put on exactly the amount required, can prove our efficiency and conserve water. Suddenly our abstraction licence re-application looks favourable!

An up-to-date, fully-functioning PC-based control system will allow us to do this if properly configured and used correctly – you only get out that which you put in!

Other elements associated with the control system operation, apart from programming, are usually cable-jointing and reliability. Cables will only provide reliable, trouble-free operation if jointed/installed correctly (cable as approved by the manufacturer and set into the ground correctly – ie, if in rock, sand/selected backfill used), with approved cable joints and proper jointing techniques.

And then...

Well, if all that works you are onto a winner. If not, it's time to plan the upgrade and concentrate on becoming an efficient and conscientious user of water. A planned, phased upgrade need not cost a fortune and can be undertaken over a period of years, using a design blueprint from which to work.

Designing an irrigation system is much like designing a house: get the final objective in mind – ie, greens, tee, approach irrigation – and ensure that phase one (the foundations) is installed correctly. That is, size the mainline and control system/pump station so that each subsequent phase can be added as required.

Roger Davey is Managing Director of Irritech Limited – independent irrigation consultants.

Web: www.irritechlimited.co.uk Tel: 01823 690216

Tractor not included...

...but everything you need for years of superb mowing is!

The new Pegasus Series 2 is packed full of every feature you could want in a wide area mower and now sports Trimax's new LazerBladez™ cutting system. Two new models and loads of options such as individual lift, kerb jump and centralised hydraulic controls means there's a model for everyone.

For more information or to arrange a demo of the innovation packed Pegasus Series 2 contact:

Trimax Mowing Systems UK

TEL 01933 652235

or EMAIL info@trimaxmowers.co.uk

www.trimaxmowers.com



professional tractor mounted mowing equipment

TRM109/11P

Reaction time second to none!

When you need to control a wide spectrum of annual and broadleaved weeds and get your turf back in use quickly there's only one answer – Re-Act the new selective turf herbicide from Scotts. Just 24 hours before or after an application on fine (closely mown) turf is the only time you need to stop mowing.

And Re-Act is kind to your pocket. With its powerful triple active ingredient formulation of MCPA, mecoprop-P and dicamba, and high concentration, a pack of Re-Act covers a very large area. For more information call 0871 220 5353 today.

New
Re-Act

Faster, higher, stronger selective turf herbicide

Scotts UK Professional, Paper Mill Lane, Bramford, Ipswich, Suffolk IP8 4BZ. Tel: 0871 220 5353 Fax: 01473 830386
email: prof.sales@scotts.com www.scottspromotional.co.uk

Re-Act contains: MCPA, mecoprop-P and dicamba
ALWAYS READ THE LABEL! USE PESTICIDES SAFELY.
© Registered Trade Mark of the Scotts Company and its affiliates.



Course Feature

Rejuvenated Felixstowe

Scott MacCallum travelled to East Anglia to visit an old club with some new and fresh thinking.



An area of gorse which has taken well in from of the SSSI site

Felixstowe Ferry is the fifth oldest golf club in England and boasts a history befitting a club of that longevity. However, if you were to ask members today they would probably be more proud of their achievements over the last three and a half years than much of what has gone on before.

In that short period in the club's history the improvement in the presentation and grass quality has been marked, while three new holes, designed by Martin Hawtree, have added something more to the course.

"I was employed in the April and we started work on the new holes in the November so it was a case of being straight in at the deep end," said Course Manager, John Houston.

"At the interview it was mentioned that there was a possibility of it happening and I said it would be great to be involved."

With the hole construction work on the horizon – coastal erosion and health and safety issues were the reasons the new holes were

required – John and his team got to grips with the condition and presentation of the course.

"When I arrived the greens left a lot to be desired – they were soft, compacted and had the wrong species of grass in them, including rye, and the ball just didn't run very well – while the fairways were just straight up and down," said John, who by coincidence also has England's oldest club, Royal Blackheath, on his CV.

A programme of intense aeration, slit tining, micro tining, hollow tining and vertidrainage was introduced in a bid to reduce the compaction and thatch, while wetting agents were applied.

"I see aeration as the key to success. We micro tined every three weeks and vertidrainage up to five to six times a year and this went on for two and a half years at this level of intensity. We applied 200 tonnes of Fen Dressing 80-20 mix to the greens before spring and autumn on the greens. Members put up with it because they could see the greens improving month on month," said John, who took over from a

“ ...he dug up what looked suspiciously like a landmine...

It was a genuine “Don’t panic!” moment ”

The boulders brought in from Norway to act as coastal defences



fine old greenkeeper, George Newson, who along with greenkeeper Paul Bolton, who retired recently, each had over 40 years service at the club.

The smooth hand over from George to John was complete when John had a hole-in-one at George’s retiral golf day.

“With salt tolerance a real requirement in the East Anglian area, I felt we needed something other than the fescue with which they had been overseeding before I arrived. I thought this was just throwing money away as the soil structure was poor and there was no root development in the greens,” explained John, who replaced the Fescue overseeding programme with that of bent and brought in Headland to provide soil analysis and produce a programme to help improve matters.

“I am now using Rigby Taylor R1 and R1 01 with all seed treated for salt tolerance,” said John, who will be 50 this month.

At the same time John has added his own touches to the fairways and rough, using the golfing knowledge which has carried him to playing success at several of his previous courses – Junior Champion at Ratho Park twice, the village where he was born; Club Champion at Dorking twice, once breaking the course record twice in the same day with rounds of 66 and 65; Club Champion at Dale Hill twice and winner of the Artisan’s Scratch Medal at Royal Blackheath two years running.

“I put some shape into the fairways and in doing so brought in the rough with one and a half inch and three inch cuts. The members loved having shaped fairways instead of straight ones. It started to look like a golf course,” said John, who works closely with Tim Lodge, who advises on agronomic issues.

John used his previous experience of working with Martin Hawtree at Royal Blackheath to persuade him to take on the re-design work. The plans were drawn up but with consultation required with, among others, the Suffolk Wildlife Trust and the Major of Felixstowe, it was a drawn out process. However with everyone’s concern satisfied work began on the holes – moving and directing holes away from the sea wall – with the construction work being carried out jointly by John Greasley, and the Felixstowe green staff to keep costs down.

“The Greasley’s team did the mounding on the right of the 15th hole and we did the ones between 14 and 15. We all did the turfing while we built the 16th tee ourselves. All the staff enjoyed the experience.”

The importance of moving the holes away from the sea wall and the still ever present danger that coastal erosion presents showed itself late last year when the wall almost breached – the new holes only being saved when the night tide turned with only a few inches to spare.

“I was getting worried about the new holes and thinking about the potential salt damage but the very next day the authorities pushed the shingle up the beach and then, over a period of around five months some huge boulders imported