Following the success of previous in-house Management Courses over the past two years, five more one week courses are scheduled for the hotel with five days of education.

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YEAR 1
Week 1: 28 October - 1 November inc.
Week 2: 4 November - 8 November inc.

Course content to include: Time Management; Introduction to Computers; Problem Solving; Supervision; with an overview of the Management Practices of Tees, Greens; Fairways, Bunkers & Surrounds, Health & Safety, Turf Diseases; Conservation; and Grasses for the Golf Course.

YEAR 2
Priority will be given to those who attended the YEAR 1 Course in 1989 or 1990.
Week 3: 11 November - 15 November inc.
Week 4: 18 November - 22 November inc.

Course content to include: Presentations to a Committee (verbal and written); Preparing a CV; Report Writing; Interviewing; Public Speaking; PEPA/COSHH; Spraying; Health & Safety; Turf Nutrition.

YEAR 3
Priority will be given to those who have attended the YEAR 1 and YEAR 2 Courses.
Week 5: 25 November - 29 November inc.

Course content to include: Discipline Amongst Staff; Preparing for Job Interviews; Irrigation; Tee & Green Construction; Preparing & Implementing a Course Maintenance Plan.

The Magnificent Aldwark Manor will accommodate over one hundred greenkeepers during the five courses and for those who have not yet visited HQ, will provide the ideal opportunity to luxuriate at a four star hotel with five days of education.

Those members who have attended either first or second year courses will again have an opportunity to attend, with week five specially created for them. It is anticipated that all five courses will be in heavy demand and members are requested to note specific week numbers and course content before completing the pre-paid booking card to be found facing Page 4 of this issue.

Book now for Management Courses

Sweeping new changes in greenkeeper training and financing were welcomed at BIGGA's National Education Conference when the R. & A. announced disbandment of the G.T.C. in favour of a new Joint Golf Course Committee. Our Association is to have a much greater say in all future programming.

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impressed upon us three key factors which would bring about change for the better: First, the new structure would ensure total continuity and thus override or cut any individual whims or personalities. Second, that greenkeepers (BIGGA) will play a much bigger part in deciding how (much larger) sums of money might be spent. Finally, that this was a genuine partnership between Unions, Clubs and the Association.

Asked if professional golfers might have a part to play, Secretary of the EGU, Keith Hunter, suggested that there was no place for them in this "enduring structure", he continued, "the sooner we convince Clubs that greenkeeping is an art and a profession the better. We have been too concerned", he said, "a murmur of approval rumbled through the halls.

One might imagine this session a hard act to follow, but with an up-to-the-minute topic like Greenkeeping in the year 2010 - Who are we training for? and what for? Dr Hugh Nunn took the day to a splendid close, all present being given plenty upon which to cogitate.

Saturday night was given to merriment, with a fine banquet set before us in the historic Merchant Adventurers Hall, followed by the riotously funny act of Barry Williams, which proved to be an inspired choice, raising the mood perfectly with It's a Bangalore. Both visually and vocally that excess, Larry Gilhuly judged the mood to be at its height when a Peace protester lit a burning match on the stage and incinerated himself on the village green. Thankfully a cease-fire was called before I flew home.

The material was both informative and practically based and through classroom days were long - 8am to 5.30 pm - the time flew past. Some of the material was familiar from my days at Askham Bryan, with the presentation made doubly fascinating by its 'Americanisation'. For example, our meadow grass is known as Kentucky Blue Grass (which sounds much nicer) and came to light when latin names were used in the classroom. My day dawned when a talk turned to American warm season grasses - so different from those few varieties we have here in Britain - and the management practices necessary for their survival.

The essential ingredient in any learning experience is, in my opinion, the dialogue that comes after school. My unfounded though long-held views on America and the Americans were soon changed through such conversations and I now feel that no big gap exists in the capability of 'them' as opposed to 'us'. What is clear, however, is that education is a high priority, high profile subject, and this we must emulate at every opportunity if we are to gain the same professional recognition enjoyed by our American cousins.

Did I tell you about the war? It broke out whilst I was there, giving me an exposure to American news coverage that was truly mind-blasting. Twenty-four hour TV coverage on four channels, newspapers crammed to capacity on four channels, newspapers crammed to capacity. There was never a dull moment, for the excellent course material was both informative and practically based and through classroom days were long - 8am to 5.30 pm - the time flew past. Some of the material was familiar from my days at Askham Bryan, with the presentation made doubly fascinating by its 'Americanisation'. For example, our meadow grass is known as Kentucky Blue Grass (which sounds much nicer) and came to light when latin names were used in the classroom. My day dawned when a talk turned to American warm season grasses - so different from those few varieties we have here in Britain - and the management practices necessary for their survival.

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Did I tell you about the war? It broke out whilst I was there, giving me an exposure to American news coverage that was truly mind-blasting. Twenty-four hour TV coverage on four channels, newspapers crammed to capacity and in Amhurst itself the sight of demos and peace protesters marching on the streets. This climaxed on George Washington's Birthday when a peace protester incinerated himself on the village green. Thankfully a cease-fire was called before I flew home.

This was no "all work and no play" trip and I lived it up in Las Vegas at the GCSAA show. I had been psyched by Don Williams on irrigation systems past, present and future. I do hope he achieves all that he is aiming for. Indeed, on reflection, I'm sure he will. Now the end is looming, though I could happily stay on for several more weeks in California, and I am sorry to leave. The airport newsstand offers an English newspaper for £5.50 and I begin to feel drawn homeward bound. Calculations now reveal that I've covered 20,000 miles, being transported through Boston's subway nightmare to the tables of Vegas and the beaches of California. A great and rewarding experience which I shall never forget. There are too many people to thank individually, but to everyone concerned - the organisers, TORO as sponsors and all Americans who made me feel so welcome - thank you all. May all future winners enjoy equal pleasure and delight and, perhaps most important of all, gain true and lasting benefit from the learning which such a trip affords.