The Institute of Agricultural Engineers have, unfortunately, had to cancel their seminar, which was due to take place on Wednesday, 21 January, between 10am and 12 noon. However, thanks to a combination of luck and forward planning together with the excellent support of speakers and Jacobsen EZGO Textrom, I have managed to organise an even better seminar. Seminar A on Wednesday 21 January will now be:

10 am-10.40 am: TREES, THEIR NECESSARY MAINTENANCE, GOOD AND BAD PRACTICE, by John Nicholson, Associate Consultant, Eamonn Wall and Co. 10.40 am-11.20 am: REEL GRINDING, by Don Laschansky, Managing Director, Foley. 11.20 am-12 noon: GREENS MOWERS, by David Withers, National Accounts Manager, Jacobsen EZGO Textrom. 12 noon-12.40 pm: THE PRINCIPLES OF TOP DRESSING, by Scott Kinkead, Managing Director, Turfco.

Remember that I have had to move the Seminar by Jaime Ortiz Patino from Wednesday, 21 January, at 1pm to Thursday, 22 January, at 1pm. Unfortunately, it is now too late to book a place on the National Education Conference and all three Workshops are completely full. However, you can book places on Seminars, on the day, at Harrogate. Anybody wishing to book a place on their choice of Seminar, should contact Sami Collins on the Seminar Registration Desk in Hall G. Thanks to the continued support of Ransomes Simms and Jeffries, the Learning Experience 1998 has something for everyone at very affordable prices. Remember, training and education should continue throughout your career. Better trained greenkeepers leads to better golf courses and to an improvement in the status of the industry.

Pesticides training for sprayer operators

Pesticides legislation first came into effect in 1986 with the Food and Environment Protection Act (FEPA) and was followed a year later by the Control of Pesticide Regulations. To add to this COSHH Regulations in 1988 and you would think a decade later everyone involved on Greenkeeping would have been trained and, where necessary, certificated.

So who does this concern? Well, anyone using Pesticides - i.e. Herbicides, Fungicides, Insecticides or Growth Regulators must be trained and competent to carry out the work.

Three categories of people must hold National Proficiency Test Councils (NPTC) certificates namely: 1. Those born after 31 December 1964. 2. Those who act as contractors on land not managed by their employer. 3. Those who supervise someone else without a certificate.

To be eligible for a refund, you must meet the following criteria:

a. You must be a member of BIGGA and have been a member for at least two years.

b. You must have paid your own fees and be able to provide proof of payment eg receipt/credit card slip or statement.

c. You must have completed a course, or component part of a course, and be able to provide evidence of completion eg certificate/end of course report etc.

d. If you are starting a course in 1998 you may apply for a refund to be paid on course completion as in (c).

e. The course must not be subsidised, already, by BIGGA.

f. The course must be relevant to your job as a greenkeeper.

Members will be able to claim 80% of fees paid up to a maximum of £200. Application forms will be available in the February Edition of Greenkeeper International, on the BIGGA Stand at BTME and from BIGGA HQ. Applications will be dealt with on a first come first served basis. For further information, contact Ken Richardson on 01282 831973 or Sami Collins at BIGGA HQ for details.