Ken Richardson reports on how things are hotting up, as competition deadlines loom...

This month sees the deadlines for entry to three of BIGGA's major competitions, ie the TORO Award for Greenkeeping Excellence and Student Greenkeeper of the Year Competitions and the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition in association with Amazone Ground Care and Rhone Poulenc Amenity. The entry deadline is 31 May for all three competitions so make sure that you have a chance to win by making sure that your entry is sent to BIGGA HQ by the closing date.

The TORO Award for Greenkeeping Excellence

The search to find the 1998 winner for the TORO Award for Greenkeeping Excellence is hotting up. You still have time to nominate your choice, however, as entries need to be at BIGGA HQ by May 31, you need to make sure that your nomination is in the post, today.

Does your Head Greenkeeper deserve to be recognised for his efforts? Does your club want to win a TORO 3000 series triplex mower? Do you want to visit the GCSAA show in Orlando and the TORO factories in Minneapolis and California in February 1999 for free? If the answer to any of the above is yes then fill in and return an official entry form or telephoning Ken or Sami on 01347 838581. Remember, this competition is open to all Head Greenkeepers/ Course Managers.

Initial judging, to select up to eight finalists will take place during June/July, by a panel of experienced, retired head greenkeepers/ Course Managers. The National Final will be held in Harrogate on 25/26 October. TORO Student of the Year

Entries for the TORO Student of the Year competition need to be at Aldwark Manor by May 31, 1998. Regional judging will take place during the week commencing July 27 when a panel of three judges will select up to eight national finalists. The National Final will be held in Harrogate on October 25-26 alongside the The TORO Award for Greenkeeping Excellence Final. Make sure that your college or training provider submits an entry for this prestigious competition and you could win the TORO Scholarship for 1998, attending the University of Massachusetts for a six weeks turf management course as well as visiting the TORO factories in Minneapolis and California.

The BIGGA Golf Environment Competition

This year, 1998, is the second year that BIGGA has run this Competition in association with Amazone Ground Care and Rhone Poulenc Amenity. Golf clubs throughout Great Britain are beginning to see the benefits of entering which at the very least can give your club a detailed environmental survey and action plan. However, if you win then your club could win the £5000 first prize and the added bonus of being recognised as the top environmentally managed golf course. Complete your application form today and send it to BIGGA HQ or contact Ken or Sami for further details.

Pattisson's fantastic summer PROMOTIONS

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1. Pattisson's 'Aqua Pack'

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Set of replacement tines - £20
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TOTAL VALUE - £238.90

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2. Pattisson's are selling their Bunker Rake with black screw in head and white fibre glass handle for just £5.95.