This month sees the deadlines for entry to three of BIGGA's major competitions. The TORO Award for Greenkeeping Excellence and Student Greenkeeper of the Year Competitions, which have an entry deadline of May 28, and the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition, in association with Amazone Ground Care and The Grass Roots Trading Company, which has an entry deadline of May 3.

Make sure that your entry is sent to BIGGA HQ by the closing date.

The TORO Award for Greenkeeping Excellence

The search to find the 1999 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 28, 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 New Orleans and to look to the future.

The BIGGA Golf Environment Competition

This year, 1999, sees the Grass Roots Trading Company, joining Amazone Ground Care and BIGGA in sponsoring the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition. Golf clubs throughout Great Britain are beginning to see the benefits of re-introducing an essay competition for greenkeepers. Full details of the competition will be published soon but briefly:

The overall theme will be "The Past, The Present and The Future" ie. to link with BTME 2000. The original essays from a competition run for Greenkeepers between 1912 and 1915 will enable us to compare the past with the present thoughts on greenkeeping issues and to look to the future.

There will be three categories: Head Greenkeepers/Course Managers and deputies; Assistants and Students aged 25 and over and over; Assistants and Students aged under 25.

The entrants would be required to write an essay of between 2000 and 2500 words long ie. five to six typed A4 written pages. The Essay extracts would be made at BTME2000. A brochure would be published in 2000 of all the winning essays, together with a number of the essays from 1912 to 1915.

The BIGGA Essay Competition 1999

Thanks to a suggestion by our Vice Chairman, Elliot Small, we are reintroducing an essay competition for greenkeepers. Full details of the competition will be published soon but briefly:

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The Y2k Problem

What is it? Does it affect me? What will it do? Watch out for more details next month.

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Get thinking and get sharpening your pencils ready to submit your entry in the Autumn.

Refund of Fees Scheme

The maximum refund that can be claimed in any one year has been increased to £250 from 29 March 1999. To be eligible, you must:

a. Be a member of BIGGA and have been a member for at least two years
b. Have paid your own fees and be able to provide proof of payment.

c. Have completed a course or component part of a course and be able to provide proof of completion.

d. Not have had the course subsidised by BIGGA.

e. Attend a relevant course to your job as a greenkeeper.

If you wish to claim then contact BIGGA HQ for an application form.