This month, Ken Richardson, announces the majority of the finalists for the Toro Student of the Year and reminds members to get their entries in for the BIGGA Essay Competition...

TORO Student of the Year Competition

I completed my annual long distance trip around Britain, accompanied variously by Trevor Chard and Pete Mansfield from Lely UK and Jim Paton, Ian Semple, Paul Jenkins and Richard Barker all BIGGA Board of Management Members, selecting the finalists for this year's TORO Student of the Year Competition.

As always, the week was stimulating, motivating and enlightening giving all of us judges hope for the future of the greenkeeping industry. Standards continue to improve which must mean that the GTC, BIGGA, training providers and employers are putting the training of greenkeepers at a top priority, leading to better qualified greenkeepers and to better golf courses.

Those selected for the National Final, which will be held at BIGGA House on 29/30 October are:

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The deadline for entries to this year's Essay Competition draws near. Several entries have arrived already at BIGGA House but you have still got a chance to collect a prize of £300 thanks to contributors to the BIGGA Education and Development Fund.

All you have to do is write between 1500 and 2000 words on the subject 'Managing Without Chemicals, is it possible, what are the consequences and how would you cope?'

Send your entry to reach BIGGA House by October 27 and you could be one of three winners to receive £500.

Categories are:
- Golf Course managers/Head Greenkeepers and Deputies
- Assistant GKs and Students over 25
- Assistant GKs and Students under 25

BIGGA Essay Competition

Applications for both Regional training courses and BIGGA HOUSE courses are arriving at HQ at a steady rate. The deadline for entries was 11 August. However, we will accept entries up to one week before course start dates. Please note that if sufficient numbers are not booked on courses, they will have to be cancelled.

Contact either Ken Richardson or Sami Collins on 01347 833800 to check current availability.

BIGGA HOUSE and Regional Training Courses

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Scottish finalists are proving to be extremely difficult to separate! Details soon.

Categories are:
- Golf Course managers/Head Greenkeepers and Deputies
- Assistant GKs and Students over 25
- Assistant GKs and Students under 25

BIGGA HOUSE course topics

- Getting Started in Supervisory Management
- Managing Oneself
- Managing Information for Action
- Next Steps in Supervisory Management
- Making Budgets Work
- Manage TheUse of Financial Resources
- Manage the Use of Physical Resources
- Essential Computing Skills for Greenkeepers
- Basic Computer Skills

BIGGA HOUSE course topics

- Managing Without Chemicals
- Making Meetings Work
- Managing Oneself
- Managing Information for Action
- Next Steps in Supervisory Management
- Making Budgets Work
- Manage The Use of Financial Resources
- Manage the Use of Physical Resources
- Essential Computing Skills for Greenkeepers
- Basic Computer Skills

Full details are available from the BIGGA Education Dept on 01347 833800.

Golf Course
- Preparation Video
  - £14.95 to BIGGA members
  - £29.95 to non-members
- Golf Course
  - Reconstruction Video
    - £14.95 to BIGGA members
    - £29.95 to non-members
- Ecology Book
  - £3.00 to BIGGA members
  - £7.00 to non-members
- Ecology Video
  - £14.95 to BIGGA members
  - £29.95 to non-members
- Raising the Standards of Mowing Management Video
  - £14.95 to BIGGA members
  - £29.95 to non-members
- Setting the Standard in Spraying Application Video
  - £14.95 to BIGGA members
  - £29.95 to non-members

European Computer Driving Licence
- Testing at £50
- Futher Skills in Computing
- European Computer Driving Licence
  - Testing at £50

Human Resource Management
- Leading Teams into the 21st Century
  - Determine the Work of Teams and Individuals
  - Develop Productive Working Relationships
  - Management in Action
    - Provide Information to Support Decision Making
    - Facilitate Meetings
  - Regional course topics
    - Golf Course Design 1
    - Golf Course Design 2
    - Leading Teams into the 21st Century
    - Making Meetings Work
    - Essential Management Skills For Greenkeepers
    - Interviews & Appraisals
    - Making Budgets Count
    - Basic Computer Skills
    - Further Skills in Computing
      - Ornamental Horticulture
      - Health & Safety Update
      - Manual Handling and Risk Assessment
      - Soil Science
      - Negotiation Skills

British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Aire, York, YO61 1UF Tel: 01347 833800 Fax: 01347 613801 Email: education@bigga.co.uk