Get the most from your education

September is the month when the Education and Training Department begins to finalise the arrangements for the Continue to Learn Week in Harrogate, coordinate the final stages of the Golf Environment Competition, organise the Country Finals for the TORO Excellence in Greenkeeping Competition, and encourage members to submit their entries for the BIGGA Essay Competition, compile and publish the findings of the Standing Committee for Greenkeepers Pay and Conditions of Service, arranging the Education Programme for the Golf Club Show and organising regional and section training courses.

Regular readers of this column will have seen that the Continue to Learn programme for Harrogate has a range of opportunities for all levels of greenkeeper to continue to learn and develop. There is a wide range of options throughout the week and you will need to study the Continue to Learn brochure very carefully, when it is delivered with your October copy of Greenkeeper International. Remember to book early to reserve your place(s) on the sessions of your choice.

Thanks to the committee members who contacted BIGGA HOUSE requesting a range of subjects which they would like to see presented at local venues. Full details will be sent to Sections and Regions in early October and will appear in Greenkeeper International.

There is still time for you to write and submit your entry for the BIGGA Essay Competition, one of many activities sponsored by the BIGGA Education and Development Fund, which, in turn, is funded by Golden and Silver Key members of the fund. The title of the essay is 'Poa Annual, friend or foe'. All entries must arrive at BIGGA HOUSE by 26 October 2001. Get thinking and writing. You could win £500 for your 1500 to 2000 words essay.

After extensive research, the Standing Committee for Greenkeepers Salaries and Conditions of Employment has produced its recommendations for 2002. Based on the annual rate of salary inflation, the recommendations include three levels of recommended salary, ie. those clubs within 30 miles of Big Ben, the rest of the South and the remainder of the UK. A copy of the scales should be included in this magazine. Further copies may be obtained from the Committee or from the Association of Golf Club Secretaries.

Remember, that the BIGGA Scheme started the year 2001/2002 on 1 July. Register on the scheme by contacting Sami at BIGGA HOUSE and you could be earning credits towards your Certificate of Continuing Professional Development.