Education Update

As this spring's regional training courses draw to a close, it is time for members to start thinking about the training they require in their Regions and Sections for autumn 2004 and spring 2005.

If you have a particular training need then speak to your Section Secretary/Regional Administrator or contact Sami or me at BIGGA HOUSE.

Thanks to contributors to the BIGGA Education and Development Fund, we are able to keep the cost of training down to £50+VAT for a one day course and £100+VAT for a two day course.

BIGGA Golf Environment Competition

Final negotiations are taking place to secure a third sponsor for the annual, BIGGA Golf Environment Competition. Thanks to the continued support of Scotts UK Professional and of Syngenta Professional Products the introduction of a third sponsor will ensure that the Competition will continue to attract high quality entries from Golf Clubs in Great Britain, help golf clubs to manage their golf course with the environment in mind and spread the word that golf courses are environmentally friendly.

The 2004 Competition will run on similar lines to previous years and details will be sent out later this month. Entry forms will have to be returned to BIGGA House by the end of May when the Competition judges, from STRI, will look at nine areas of environmental management:

- Nature Conservation
- Energy Efficiency
- Landscape and Cultural Heritage
- Education and Training
- Water Resource Management
- Turfgrass Pest Management
- Communications
- Public Access and Awareness
- Waste Management

Those clubs judged to meet the criteria best will be selected to progress to the second stage of the Competition while clubs not selected will receive extended feedback on their entry.

Clubs selected to progress to the second round will be visited by the judges who will, subsequently, select the prize winners for 2004.

The National Winner will receive a cheque for £2,000, a Scott's Weather Master Weather Station and the BIGGA Golf Environment Trophy.

Each of the other four area winners and the runners up in the winner's region will each receive a cheque for £500.

Prizes of £500 will be awarded for:
- The Best Environmental Initiative
- The Most Impressive Newcomer
- The Best Use of Recycled Materials

All prize winners receive a plaque to display in the Clubhouse.

Whether your course is large or small, it provides an important link in the environmental chain, helping to achieve long term ecological benefits.

Let your members, local residents and the World see what you are doing by entering this year's competition.

Who knows, it may be your turn to join this year's winners at the BTME & ClubHouse Exhibition in Harrogate next January.

Watch out for details of the Competition Sponsors in the next edition of Greenkeeper International.