Education Update

Education and Training Manager, Ken Richardson, gears up for the busiest part of the training and education year...

**Competition final, courses start and a time to book**

My latest holiday has faded into the distant past as we gear up for the busiest part of the year in the education and training department.

The Final of the TORO Student of the Year Competition has just taken place, the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition is nearing its final stages, Regional Training Courses have started and we expect bookings for Continue to Learn 2005 to start flooding in.

Added to these, are preparations for the British and International Turf Managers Conference, the design and production of a training and development manual and visits to the National Turf Grass Foundation Conference, the South West Region Conference, the Midlands Region Conference and the Northern Region conference.

I think that I may need another holiday before long although I have to take some time out to have surgery on both of my feet, leaving you in the capable hands of Sami.

**Golf Environment Competition**

The STRI judges have completed their first round judging and are nearing the end of their golf course visits to determine the winners in this competition sponsored by WRAP Scotts and Syngenta.

Clubs will be notified of the results during October and prizes will be awarded at BTME & ClubHouse. Watch out for full details in this magazine.

**Regional Training Courses for under £50 a time**

We have had some feedback saying that our Regional Training Course are too expensive. Unfortunately, you cannot get quality training at no cost, someone has to pay.

Our courses receive a massive subsidy from the Education and Development Fund allowing us to keep the costs of a one day course to £49 + VAT, whereas the true cost is actually £80 + VAT per delegate.

Places are still available on the following courses.

**Presentation Skills**

Ross on Wye Golf Club
29 and 29 October

**Essential Management Skills**

Ross on Wye Golf Club
9 and 10 November

**Continue to Learn 2005**

You should find a Continue to Learn 2005 brochure in this copy of Greenkeeper International. If not, contact BIGGA House to request your copy.

Remember that places on the Workshops are limited, so send your application back to BIGGA House as soon as possible.

**TORO Student of the Year**

Always the highlight of the year for me as this competition identifies the people who are the future of our industry.

Full details of the prize winners will appear in next month's edition of Greenkeeper International, but it is time that you started to think about entering the 2005 competition, when it could be you who wins the TORO Scholarship to the US.

**Communication Skills**

Cleethorpes Golf Club
17 and 18 November

**Management Skills for HG and CM**

Old Fold Manor Golf Club
22 and 23 November

**Next Steps in Management Skills**

Dunham Forest Golf Club
25 and 26 November

**Negotiating Skills**

Exeter Golf Club
30 November

Each one-day course costs £49 + VAT and each two-day course costs £99 + VAT. Contact BIGGA House to book your place.

**BITMC**

Plans are almost complete for the British and International Turf Managers Conference that takes place at Staverton Park Conference Centre on 19 and 20 March 2005. Watch out for more details in future editions of this magazine, at BTME & ClubHouse or ask Sami when she is in Southport for the NTF Conference next month.