July has always been an eventful month for the Education and Training Department of BIGGA. July 2005 was memorable for all sorts of reasons but the cowardly act of terrorism perpetrated in London is likely to lodge in my memory for many years to come.

**Toro Student of the Year Competition 2005**

We seemed to have picked a bad week for the Regional Finals of this year's competition as the first day, July 4, coincided with the planned G8 protest in Edinburgh. Thankfully, things ran smoothly on the day and all five nominees attended their interviews.

A rapid train journey south was followed by interviews at Manchester Airport, where we interviewed a further five candidates. Hemel Hempstead was the next location, where we interviewed nine candidates and managed to fit in the announcement that London had been awarded the 2012 Olympic Games. A leisurely drive west took us to Cheltenham, followed by a more hectic drive to Kettering.

This is also the time of year when students graduate from colleges of higher education, including greenkeepers completing NVQ Level 4, HNC, Foundation Degree, First Degree and Masters Degree Courses. Many of these were fortunate enough to receive a BIGGA Higher Education Scholarship, sponsored by Ransomes Jacobsen, to help with their fees.

If you are about to start a course of higher education then you could be eligible for a scholarship. Contact Ken or Sami on 01347 833800 for details.

**Harrogate Week 2006**

The programme for Harrogate Week 2006 is almost ready to go to the printers and it will be distributed in late September/early October. Make sure that you read the brochure thoroughly as many changes have been included for 2006, including a massive increase in the amount of education opportunities available.

**Regional Training**

There is still time for you to decide on subjects and locations for this autumn's education courses. Contact your Section Secretary, Regional Administrator or Ken/Sami at BIGGA HQ for further details.

The Midland Section, of the Midland Region, are well ahead with their planning and wish to offer a range of training courses this Autumn. Paul Woodham has asked that I publicise the following.

The Midland Section is actively promoting skills training this autumn/winter. Gay Hill Golf Club have kindly offered this autumn/winter. Gay Hill Golf Club have kindly offered