Santa has been on TV advertising a favourite soft drink and left me singing “The holidays are coming!” As the excitement grows for the man in red to deliver all that we’re wishing for, the buzz surrounding Harrogate Week and the Continue to Learn programme is also creating a bit of stir.

Continue to Learn at Harrogate Week

Many of the workshops are Sold Out and there is great interest in several of the featured seminars. This promises that the Queen’s Suite of Harrogate International Centre will be very busy – just the way we like it!

We are fortunate to be presenting a number of seminars from companies who are exhibiting at the trade show, these include:

- Efficient Nutrient Technology - Vitax
- Improving Turf Quality - Headland Amenity
- The Future of Turf Management - Scots
- Integrated Lake and Pond Management - Sherriff Amenity
- Why Electricity Generation Makes Economic Sense for Your Business - Solar Wall
- Fulvic Acid the Biostimulant that Extends Early and Late Season Growth - Symbio
- Fludioxonil Providing Innovative Disease Management and Application - Syngenta
- Bunker Erosion: A Sustainable Solution to an Age Old Golfing Problem - Envirosporrs
- Linking Fuel Savings to Reel Maintenance - Bernhard & Co
- The Three Steps to Transition - R&K Kensett
- Coated Seed Delivering Species Transition on the Golf Course! - DLF/Johnsons Seeds
- Aeration on Golf Courses - Terrain Aeration
- Green Up Your Greens - British Wild Flowers
- Environmental Management of your Golf Course with the Latest Technology in Chemistry - Tower Sport Europe
- Turf in the Sustainability Era - Lindum
- Woodfuel Energy that Grows on Trees - The Forestry Commission
- The New EU Water Directive and its Impact on Golf Courses - Waste 2 Water
- Utilising Foliar Fertilisers to Optimise Putting Green Programming - TurfCare Group
- Energy Efficient Irrigation - ITT Louara

Further seminars are being added. Check the website for the most current information www.harrogateweek.org.uk/education. Remember, all of the Seminars are FREE and are available on a first come, first serve basis. Ensure that you are at the Queen’s Suite in plenty of time to secure your seat.

Protected Habitats and Species Field Guide

As I mentioned in last month’s column, the new ‘On Course Field Guide to the Legislation and Recognition of Protected Habitats and Species’ is now available Free of Charge to all BIGGA Members. To get your copy contact the L&D Department on 01347 833800 (option 3) or email education@bigga.co.uk. Your field guide will come with a divider to complete your field guide folder.

Higher Education Scholarships

The final scholarship of 2010 has now been awarded to:

- Greg Wellings – MSc by Research

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ransomes Jacobsen and their continued support for this worthy scheme. In 2010 we have awarded 10 Scholarships totalling just over £9,600. Ransomes Jacobsen has now invested more than £130,000 into helping over 100 BIGGA members attain higher education qualifications.

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Master Greenkeeper Certificate

I am delighted to announce that we have three new Master Greenkeepers:

- Stuart Yarwood MG – Lymm Golf Club, Cheshire
- Alan Pierce MG – Ham Manor Golf Club, West Sussex
- Alan Hess MG CGCS – Augusta Pines Golf Club, Texas, USA

My congratulations go to all three for their achievement.