As we approach the festive season (which seems to start earlier each year!) let’s take your mind off fighting to grab that last Tracy Island or deciding if it’s acceptable to watch the Great Escape on +1. So curl up with your Continue to Learn brochure in front of a roaring fire with a glass of port and plan your education at BTME.

Continuing the overview, this month we’ll concentrate on the Turf Managers’ Conference and the workshops.

**SUNDAY 20TH JANUARY/MONDAY 21ST JANUARY**

Once again the workshop programme is proving very popular and is a highly valued educational experience for those who have attended in previous years.

**Two day Workshops**

So You Want to be a Golf Course Manager Peter Jones & Kevin Muir Moving into Management Frank Newbery Irrigation System Management and Design Adrian & Dennis Morram

**One day Workshops**

The ABCs of Putting Green Maintenance Hanfried Sievers Attended in previous years.

We have a wonderful line up, with presentations from Lorna Sheldon from CMI International on how to make Professional Presentations and How to Manage Stress in the Club from David Bancroft-Turner, The Academy for Political Intelligence. We also have Kate Entwistle, from The Turf Disease Centre, discussing new cool season diseases. Finally, Dr Thom Nikolai of Michigan State University will be presenting two papers. Firstly, the Top 10 Reasons for Lightweight Rolling. Thom has been leading the research into its effects for nearly twenty years. His second paper will be on surfactants, covering soil science, hydrology and concepts including plant available water. This is a must-attend conference for all managers of fine turf.

**Regional Conferences**

The month of November has been a busy month for conferences, with four of the regions holding theirs across the country.

They were really well attended and thanks go to all those who came, the speakers who gave up their valuable time to share their knowledge and experiences and the organisers, without whom these events could not take place. Please spread the word about the conferences and how valuable a resource they are to members. Plus all those who attended and signed the CPD register will receive their CPD points.

**Library**

The library has now been re categorised and the database updated to include all the new books that have recently been purchased thanks to John Deere. If you would like to view the library you can see and order one or you can arrange to visit BIGGA House and browse at your leisure.

**BIGGA Higher Education Scholarships**

Four scholarships have been awarded this month to; Peter Collins – NVQ Level 4 Sports Turf Management, Guildford College Philip Worth – Foundation Degree (Online), Myrrom College Craig Sanderson – Foundation Degree, Ashdian Bryan College James Parker – HNC Sportsturf Management (Online), Elmwood College

**finally**

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from your Learning and Development Team!