Welcome to part two of the BTME 2000 competition, and your chance to win an all-expenses trip to Harrogate!

BTME 2000 has more exhibitors than ever before, providing a kaleidoscope of new and exciting products and equipment available to the fine turf professional.

On January 17, the National Education Conference will kick start the week of events, followed by the BTME Exhibition. In keeping with tradition, The Learning Experience will run alongside the show with its usual selection of high quality workshops, providing invaluable training for its delegates. New additions for 2000 include 'Computing for Greenkeepers' and Golf Course Preparation, places of which are expected to be of high demand. Contact Sami Collins on 01347 833800 for further details.

SO, YOU WANT TO BE PART OF BTME2000?

Well here's your chance...

All you have to do to stand a chance of winning one of our three fantastic BTME package prizes is to answer six simple questions. There were two last month, two in this issue, shown below, and the final two will appear in next month's Greenkeeper International. When you have completed all the answers, fill in the entry form, printed in the November edition of Greenkeeper International and you could be on your way to Harrogate on an all expenses paid mini-break to BTME 2000.

OCTOBER QUESTIONS:

1. Name one of the new workshops introduced for BTME2000

2. Which Hall makes its debut at BTME2000?

Remember, Don't send in your answers yet, keep them safe until you receive the entry form, printed in next month's Greenkeeper International.

First Prize: Return rail travel from anywhere in the UK plus three nights accommodation at a top hotel in Harrogate with entry into the exhibition and all the education seminar sessions.

Second prize: Return rail travel from anywhere in the UK plus two nights accommodation at a top hotel in Harrogate with entry into the exhibition and all the education seminar sessions.

Third prize: Return rail travel from anywhere in the UK plus one nights accommodation at a top hotel in Harrogate with entry into the exhibition and all the education seminar sessions.
People have been asking me recently if I have taken up the very kind offer from Stephen Okula when he invited me in the March issue to his Tenerife home for a chat on the maintenance of USGA spec greens.

Well, despite his generosity, I have decided to decline on the grounds that it is impossible to walk down a beach at any of the Canary Islands without being visually assaulted on a regular basis by a series of out of condition Bavarians wearing nothing more than a back-pack. Quite a traumatic experience for us Brits, especially after that most traditional of Canarian meals, the Full English Breakfast.

But before our Editor receives a mass of complaints from the greenkeepers wing of the Naturists Association of Deutschland, may I point out that my comments are not to be taken too seriously, as has been the unfortunate case in the past.

However the following anecdote, I can assure you is entirely factual and was recounted to me by my Brother the celebrated portrait artist, Leonardo McDivot.

My brother has a long-standing female friend who confided to him a story that had been an acute embarrassment to her for a long time. With her resolve severely diluted by a cheap bottle of wine she recounted this horrific tale in the strictest confidence. This he then told to me in not quite such strict confidence and with a total and blatant lack of confidentiality I will now faithfully relate it to a few thousand greenkeepers in the hope that she is not a regular reader of this publication.

She was seeing a young man who was to become her future hubby and the time had arrived when she was
required to meet the family. As we are all aware, this can be the most stressful of duties at the best of times but in this case the family was of English nobility, back bone and the house a stately affair complete with gazebos, orangeries, servants quarters, lodges and such like.

So the day arrived and she pulled up outside the ancestral home in her Mini Metro. Having coped with the initial introductions and navigated her way through the tea and cucumber sandwiches without too many lapses of etiquette, she was then required to tackle the evening dinner. This in keeping with normal protocol in the land of the gentility was a ceremonial affair that entailed dressing up in full ball gown regalia.

Towards the end though, she found it necessary to excuse herself to the powder room. At this point events started to take on a somewhat surreal perspective. This is a very delicate subject but I will try to explain what happened as inoffensively as possible.

To her absolute horror the product of her night time activities were so chuffed at getting away at the Captain's parking spot. With Weiskopf or my equally amazing lack of talent at deciding what shrubs to order, she noticed how supply companies are more than women's intuition. This is time the tables were turned. My wife could relay such information of unmitigated boredom to my heart's content.

Some may argue that their brains are completely invisible to us males. The picture of Neil Coles striding down the last fairway at Troon, complete with gazebos and planting schemes is time the tables were turned. My wife could relay such information of unmitigated boredom to my heart's content.

Some may argue that their brains are completely invisible to us males. The picture of Neil Coles striding down the last fairway at Troon, complete with gazebos and planting schemes is time the tables were turned. My wife could relay such information of unmitigated boredom to my heart's content.

Some may argue that their brains are completely invisible to us males. The picture of Neil Coles striding down the last fairway at Troon, complete with gazebos and planting schemes is time the tables were turned. My wife could relay such information of unmitigated boredom to my heart's content.

Some may argue that their brains are completely invisible to us males. The picture of Neil Coles striding down the last fairway at Troon, complete with gazebos and planting schemes is time the tables were turned. My wife could relay such information of unmitigated boredom to my heart's content.
I am pleased to report that at the last GTC meeting things seem to have settled down with a more positive move to go forward. It may be early to be sure, but the signs are that everyone at the meeting were there to make a fresh start on the back of the Lantra Report. A new Technical Committee was appointed, and its responsibility is to assist the Education Director and propose to the Management Committee the way forward in its educational objectives, to prepare and maintain a three year on-going plan of GTC activities as well as identifying training priorities. The Technical Committee consists of the following personnel and the bodies they represent:

Dr Mike Carnaby STRI, of whose credentials I am sure you are all aware.
Kerran Daly BIGGA, Course Manager at Gog Magog Golf Club, a Master Greenkeeper and also a GTC Assessor. Kerran holds a Certificate of Education along with Phases 1 & 2 and Diplomas in Golf Management and Turf Culture.
John Davies represents education. John has too many qualifications to mention here but to give you a sample he holds certificates in agriculture, engineering, health and safety, pesticides and education. He is an Internal Verifier with D32-33 and 34. John has been in education for over 30 years.

As well as its five members, the Technical Committee can call upon other experts in specialist fields as they see fit. Our job on the management must be to support and try to implement their ideas as far as possible. Personally I feel this is a good and positive move in the right direction.

On September 7th I joined our team at Sahexe. The weather was good for all three days, and although I feel the numbers were down on some years past, the BIGGA stand was very busy. The staff made many new contacts and took in lots of new members.

For myself, I was kept busy standing and attending meetings, so I'm sorry if I missed some of you when you visited the BIGGA stand. However, it was nice to meet so many of you, both greenkeepers and trade members. I would like to express my thanks and those of our staff to Chris Kennedy who kindly arranged for us to have dinner at Wentworth Golf Club on Wednesday evening. We were looked after like royalty and the food was superb. Thanks Chris. Also thanks to Richard Fry, who invited us to join him at the Ascot Oriental for a wonderful night, it was much appreciated. Finally I would like to thank the girls who worked so hard for three long days on our behalf.

Here we are at the end of another season, the last of this century. In many ways it's been good for some and not so good for others, depending where you live and work. Down south, it started off wet with a dry June, very wet July and a dry August, but in the north and more so in Scotland, they have had more than their fair share of rain, but one thing has remained constant and that is the pressure put on greenkeepers, sometimes unfairly, but sometimes by our own stubbornness to accept change. I get many calls and letters from members who have got problems, some you can help and others which are far away from you. I am sure other greenkeepers are able to help.

This is where legal advice comes in though your membership. Countless members have been grateful for this part of their package deal, but for many there seems to be a reluctance to use what is their right as a BIGGA member. The advice you can get is invaluable, not just for work-related problems, but for home and personal difficulties as well. I don't care how many of you make contact with me, I will always try to point you in the right direction, and I'm happy to do so, but take a piece of advice, when your membership renewal drops through your door, don't just put it on one side, take a good careful read and make sure you know what's in it for you. It is an excellent package and one we should be proud of.

Finally, the seminar season is coming round again and I look forward to the chance of meeting lots of you again, if not at the regional ones, then at BTME in January. There is still lots to learn by us all. We will never know it all, so let's take every opportunity that's on offer.

Gordon Child
GREEN-RELEAF

KCS 0-0-14 LIQUID
Winter Turf Hardener

BENEFITS

- Hardens Turf For the Winter
- Improves disease resistance
- Provides a natural green-up
- Can be used throughout Winter to maintain a stronger sward

EUROPEAN DISTRIBUTORS

HOLLAND
- Progress
  - Tel: (31) 34-15 60780

GERMANY
- Optima
  - Tel: (49) 572 6250

ITALY
- Tempoverde
  - Tel: (39) 11 671 11 23

PORTUGAL
- AP Jordao
  - Tel: (351) 2 947 96 50

UK DISTRIBUTORS

AITKENS
- Glasgow
  - Tel: 0141 4401443
- York
  - Tel: 01917 861165

AVONCROP
- Bristol
  - Tel: 01225 828800
- Brockenhill
  - Tel: 01344 426600

IRELAND
- John Lindsay
  - Tel: 01762 339 229

Green Releaf Europe, 102a Longton Road, Barlaston, Staffs, England ST12 9AU

TEL: 01782 373878  FAX: 01782 373763

E-mail: mcrubes@green-releaf.com