

## Education update

BY KEN RICHARDSON



# Range of courses continues to grow

**M**y own education is continuing with visits to Myerscough and Reaseheath colleges which not only provided me with two colleges' views on greenkeeper training but also improved my knowledge of grass identification and grass diseases. The range of courses on offer at colleges continues to grow, ranging from N/SVQ through Ordinary National and Higher National Diplomas to degree level courses. Short courses are also available covering a range of skills including Health and Safety, Pesticide Application, First Aid and Safe Lifting and Handling of Heavy Loads.

■ The GTC Training Manual, available from the GTC, Aldwark Manor, Alne, York, YO6 2NF, has been developed as the means to monitor and record the training of greenkeepers, from raw recruit to course manager. The Manual not only meets the needs of industry but also satisfies the criteria laid down by N/SVQ to lead to the award of a nationally recognised qualification at levels 2, 3 and 4. Candidates successfully completing the sections of the Manual will also be entered on the GTC register and will be awarded the appropriate industry certificate ie. the Certificate in Golf Greenkeeping (Craft Section), the Certificate in Golf Course Supervision (Supervisory Section) and the Certificate in Golf Course Management (Management Section). Mandatory conservation units must be completed before the Certificate in Golf Course Management will be issued. Greenkeepers who completed the 'Pink' log-book are still eligible to be entered into the GTC register. Greenkeepers can check with the GTC on 0347 838640 to see if they are registered.

■ N/SVQ assessment centres are being selected from a list of colleges and golf courses and the initial batch of seven greenkeeper assessors has completed its initial training here at Aldwark.

■ Several education and training projects were discussed and

endorsed at the recent BIGGA board meeting. These included:

### Training videos

The next BIGGA sponsored training video 'Course Preparation' is due to enter production shortly. This video will cover six units of the GTC Training Manual and has been designed to be used by course managers, golf club management and colleges. The video will be produced in modular format so that the trainer can select the part or parts of the video that meet the training need.

### Field guides

The next BIGGA field guide will cover 'Grass Identification'. Initial planning has taken place and production of the guide is expected in the autumn.

### BIGGA reference library

Although several management and personal development books have been identified for the BIGGA reference library and the R&A are providing us with a bibliography of some of their titles, we are still looking for suggestions, from members, of suitable books. Details have yet to be finalised but we hope to provide a library which will enable members to gain access to a wide range of greenkeeping, turf management, personnel management and general management sources of information.

■ Two major BIGGA events are nearing their final stages. These are:

*TORO/LELY/PGA Student of the Year*

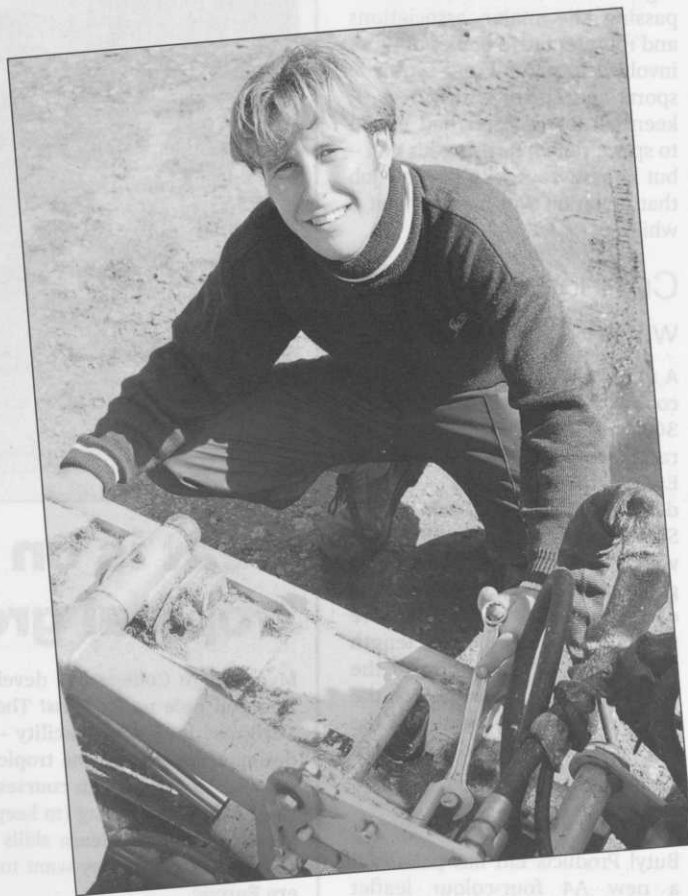
We have received 33 entries from 19 colleges for this year's Student of the Year competition. The regional finals will take place in early September and the final at Aldwark on October 2/3.

*ICI Premier Greenkeeper of the Year*

The regional courses inspections have already commenced and the finalists should be known soon. The final takes place at Aldwark Manor on December 4/5.

# A day in the life

The last time we did this it was snowing in some areas, so we asked five greenkeepers what they were doing on a nice hot summer's day – June 14.



**STEVEN MACDONALD, 22**  
**First assistant at Vereniging Golf Club Almeerderhout, The Netherlands, a 27-hole parkland course with a nine-hole par 3 course and driving range. Set in 297 acres, it has 1400 members. Steven has been there two years.**

**7am** – Preparing and checking relevant machinery for all greenkeeping staff to be used today.

**7.30am** – Delegation of morning jobs with head greenkeeper and discuss briefly the rest of the day's work planner.

**7.45am** – Begin to fertilise the nine holes on our blue course with Fison's Zero Phosphate 14.0.7 (NPK), 2% iron, 2%mg, with head greenkeeper following

behind watering the greens manually with the Toro irrigation system. Application rate: 1oz per sq yd.

**10am** – Break.

**10.20am** – Resetting, tightening and checking fairway Beaver units (two) and Toro 450D fairway mower. After completing this I moved onto the Toro 1000s (four) where I reset height to 5.5mm on all machines and tightened units ready for tomorrow morning.

**12.30pm** – Lunch.

**1.30pm** – Delegation of afternoon tasks with head greenkeeper.

**1.45pm** – Working with Toro 325D set at rough height around greens with assistant greenkeeper on the yellow course in preparation for the club championship at