



## Come with BIGGA to the GCSAA Conference and Show *San Francisco '95*

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America will be holding its 66th International Golf Course Conference and Show in San Francisco from February 20-27, 1995.

BIGGA's party attending this major international event will assemble on Sunday February 19 at the Excelsior Hotel, Heathrow Airport, leaving the next morning on a direct flight to San Francisco and arriving back at Heathrow on Wednesday, March 1.

The GCSAA will present an action-packed week dedicated to presenting the latest in educational opportunities with more than 60 educational seminars on offer, the newest golf course products and services, and an opportunity to meet with fellow professionals. Those attending will be able to visit Chinatown, Golden Gate Bridge, Sausalito/Muir Woods, Union Square, Golden Gate Park, Alcatraz and take the cable car to the world famous Fisherman's Wharf – just some of the attractions of San Francisco.

An exciting trip is in prospect and bookings with full payment must be received by November 30.

### ITINERARY

Sunday, February 19

All participants assemble at the Excelsior Hotel, Heathrow Airport, overnight accommodation with free car parking included.

Monday, February 20

Depart Heathrow for San Francisco direct non-stop flight. Departure 1100 hours arrival 1500 hours. Transfer to the Holiday Inn, Union Square. Stay eight nights, room only basis.

Tuesday, February 28

Transfer back to airport. Depart San Francisco 1800 hours arrive Heathrow 1230 hours on March 1. Return transfer to Hotel to collect cars and drive home.

### PRICES

£754.00 per person based on twin shares

£1,094.00 per person based on single room accommodation, plus comprehensive travel insurance for the duration £35.00

**Included are:** Overnight accommodation at Heathrow with car parking, return economy flights from Heathrow to San Francisco, UK and US taxes, transfers from the airport to the hotel and return, eight nights accommodation based on room only, US accommodation taxes.

**Please forward full payment of £789.00 or £1,129.00 (unless travel insurance is not required) to BIGGA, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Ane, York, YO6 2NF to arrive by Wednesday, November 30 at the latest, together with name, address and contact telephone number.**

## Education update

BY KEN RICHARDSON



# Secure your place at the Association's National Education Conference

### Harrogate 1995

The National Education Conference and BTME Seminar Programme is now only four months away so make a note in your diary of the dates and get your place booked!

Included in this issue of *Greenkeeper International* are full details of the Education Conference and BTME seminar programme. A booking form is also enclosed and as always, please book early.

### BIGGA Supervisory and Management Courses

There is still time to book a place on this year's BIGGA Supervisory and Management Courses. Week 1 is full but a few places remain on weeks 2, 3 and 4. If you wish to apply, phone me on 0347 838581.

### N/SVQs

As I have highlighted in previous articles, BIGGA and the Greenkeepers Training Committee are determined that golf greenkeepers will be given nationally recognised qualifications for *all* formal training. The introduction of N/SVQs has meant a shift in emphasis from the traditional classroom based theory curriculum to a more work based learning and assessment system.

Colleges still have a major part to play in greenkeeper training as theory (or underpinning knowledge in NVQ speak) is still seen as an important part of courses, as is the teaching of the principles of greenkeeping practise.

However, for N/SVQs to be successful, employers and course managers/head greenkeepers need to become involved in the training and assessment of greenkeeping staff. The GTC expects employers to undertake to train greenkeepers and to allow course managers/head greenkeepers to become trained assessors. Regional seminars are being arranged to describe the structure, content and

philosophy of the N/SVQ system and the part that employers and course managers/head greenkeepers can play in making the scheme a success.

Any course manager/head greenkeeper wishing to register for an N/SVQ seminar should contact the GTC on 0347 838640.

### TORO/Lely/PGA European Tour Student of the Year

After an arduous week of travel and interviews, the three members of the interview panel – Dean Cleaver, from the BIGGA board education sub-committee, Pete Mansfield from Lely and myself – chose six of the seven finalists for the National Finals of the TORO/Lely/PGA European Tour Student of the Year.

The seventh finalist was selected by our colleagues in Northern Ireland.

The final at Aldwark Manor will have taken place by the time you read this. An article appears on pages 10/11 giving potted histories of the seven finalists but we felt that all 33 entrants were winners to have reached the regional finals.

The standard of candidate was extremely high, which not only made our job very difficult but, more importantly, gave us a very encouraging look at the future of the greenkeeping profession. Congratulations to you all.

### ICI Premier Greenkeeper of the Year

All 24 entrants for the ICI Premier Greenkeeper Award should now have received notification of the results of the first round course inspections.

The judges found it very difficult to select the winners in all five regions as the standard of course preparation was impressively high. Second round course inspections have been completed and the final takes place at Aldwark Manor on December 2 and 3.