

Education update

BY KEN RICHARDSON



Search begins for next year's speakers

It hardly seems possible that the National Education Conference and BTME are over for another year as last week passed so quickly.

We had a varied list of speakers who gave some very interesting and thought-provoking talks, with a little controversy thrown in as well.

I am already planning for next year and I would welcome thoughts and suggestions on topics for next year. I am also searching for greenkeepers and non-greenkeepers who would be willing to speak at the conference or seminar programme. Please contact me if you can help.

For anyone who missed the 1995 Conference or BTME Seminars, tapes of both events are available from BIGGA headquarters. Prices are £25 for the whole of the Conference and £5 for each seminar.

Zeneca Premier Greenkeeper

As reported in the last issue of *Greenkeeper International*, entries for the 1995 Zeneca Premier Greenkeeper of the Year can now be submitted to BIGGA headquarters. Entries can be from individual greenkeepers, greenkeeping teams or golf clubs and can be made by returning the card facing Page 62 in this issue or by writing to HQ.

The first prize is an all expenses paid trip to Florida for the 1996 GCSAA Exhibition and Conference plus £500 to the winner's team. Runners up prizes include a weekend in London with tickets for a top West End show and a weekend for two at Aldwark Manor. Remember, the competition is to find the greenkeeper who gets the best from his course with the facilities that he has available and aims to recognise services to the greenkeeping industry.

TORO/Lely/PGA European Tour Student of the Year

Entries are invited for the Toro/Lely/European Tour Student of the Year competition 1995 from colleges in the United Kingdom and southern Ireland. Full details of entry criteria are given in a leaflet, obtainable from BIGGA HQ and nomination forms must be returned to Aldwark Manor by 31 May 1995.

Regional finals will take place during September and the national final will take place at Aldwark Manor on 8/9 October.

Master Greenkeeper Certificate

The latest recipient of the coveted title of Master Greenkeeper is Richard McNabb. Richard, who is the Course Superintendent at Palmetto Golf Club, South Carolina, received his award at the National Education Conference. The next MGC examination will take place on Friday 21 April and a pre-examination day will be held at Aldwark Manor on 27 February.

Management Training Courses

Planning has started for the 1995 Supervisory and Management Courses which will be held over five weeks during October and November.

Course content will be similar to last year's courses, ie. covering the underpinning knowledge requirements of the GTC Training Manual level 3 but will also include one week at level 4.

Additionally, we are planning a series of Health and Safety and Management courses for autumn 1995/spring 1996, to be presented at locations around the UK and Ireland and we are working with the GTC to set up county based one day training course for autumn/winter 1995.



Michael Hunter, 27, has joined the board of his dad's business, Eric Hunter Grinders Ltd. Eric's wife Shielia and daughter Michelle also work for the company which produces the well-known Jupiter and Juno grinding machines.

'Open' invitation to join the BIGGA support team

Applications are invited from members to join BIGGA's greenkeeping support team for the 1995 Open Championship at St Andrews. Members wishing to be considered must be working greenkeepers and should be available from Wednesday evening, July 19, to Sunday evening, July 23. The opportunity to take part in this prestigious event is open to both team members from previous years and also those members who are wishing to participate for the first time.

Duties will be allocated on a rota basis over the four days of play and include early morning course preparation, bunker raking whilst matches are in play and evening course maintenance. All members of the support team will be expected to remain on the course throughout the day, to be available in the event of any unforeseen circumstances arising.

Accommodation, all meals and transport will be provided by the

Association, but successful applicants will be expected to pay their own travelling expenses from home to the event and return.

The team consists of a small organising committee and 50 greenkeepers. Those members wishing to be involved should put their name forward in writing to John Pemberton, administration manager, at BIGGA's HQ, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York YO6 2NF, to be received no later than March 6 1995. All candidates' names will then be placed into a draw to select the successful applicants. If you have not been to this event before in this capacity and wish to learn more about what will be expected before putting your name forward, then please do not hesitate to contact either John (tel: 01347 838581), Elliott Small (tel: 01259 731445) or Bert Cross (tel: 0151 7245412).

Ransomes appointment

Andrew Sunaway has been appointed sales and marketing director of Ransomes, Sims and Jelferies Ltd. Formerly international sales manager and customer service manager, Andrew's new responsibilities cover the planning, development and co-ordination of Ransomes' commercial grass machinery sales, marketing and promotional strategies and functions in the UK, Europe and all other parts of the world outside North America. His principal objectives are to consolidate and extend the use of Ransomes' equipment on a global scale.

