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AD REF 61

# Time to look to the future



## Education Update

BY KEN RICHARDSON

**N**ow that the dust is beginning to settle after a busy but successful week at Harrogate, it is time to look forward to education and training provision for the rest of 1996. Firstly, though, I would like to echo Neil Thomas' comments about the very sad loss of Geof Hills. We were just getting to know Geof and, especially as I had been recently working closely with him on the South East Region Management Courses, his untimely death was a great shock and I will miss him.

The rest of 1996 seems set to continue to be busy, starting with the Regional Management Courses. Although a great success in most regions, the Plymouth Course was very poorly supported and I have had to cancel it. Courses at York and Chester were very well supported with 32 delegates in total. Killarney, Birmingham, Brighton, Dover Bournemouth and Bristol were all well supported and applications are rushing in for the extra courses at Mildenhall and Bedford, with the Hemel Hempstead course already fully subscribed.

### Massey Ferguson Tractor Appreciation Workshop

The first of three Tractor Appreciation Workshops for selected college students takes place at Warwickshire College from February 19 to 23. Further workshops will be held at Oaklands College from March 11 to 15 and at Elmwood College from April 1 to 4. Any college still wishing to nominate delegates should contact me as soon as possible. Nominated students will shortly receive joining instructions for each workshop.

### Miracle Professional Premier Greenkeeper of the Year

As Mike Goodhind, the 1995 Miracle Professional Premier Greenkeeper heads for Florida and the GCSAA Exhibition and Show, the search for 1996's winner begins. A leaflet explaining the rules of the Competition, giving the prize list and containing an entry form is enclosed in this magazine, so why not enter yourself or nominate your choice. Remember, the winner will be heading for Las Vegas this time next year.

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

The 1995 Student of the Year,

James Braithwaite, is struggling through the snow in the USA at the start of his 10 weeks in the States. Entry forms and explanatory leaflets have been sent to colleges so please think about your entries, ensure that you meet the entry deadlines and make sure that any student nominated understands the rules, and more especially, that the Regional Finals will take place in early September with the National Final taking place in early October.

### BIGGA Lending Library

The number of titles now exceeds 200 with more books on order. Remember, it costs nothing to borrow books for up to six weeks except the return postage. For more information or for a copy of the book list, contact me at HQ.

### National Education Conference and BTME

Finally, thank you to all delegates who attended the Workshops, National Education Conference and BTME seminars at Harrogate last week, for making the Learning Experience a success. Those that did not attend missed some excellent opportunities to add to their greenkeeping knowledge and skills. However, video tapes of the Conference and Seminars will be available, for purchase, soon. Anyone wishing to buy a tape or tapes should contact me at HQ. The cost of each tape will be:

Per National Education Conference and Seminar speaker £6 per tape, except Dr Joe Vargas Seminar at £10 per tape.

Written transcriptions of each session of the Conference will also be ready for purchase during February.

### I THOUGHT BTME 96 WAS THE BEST YET BECAUSE:



"I actually met THE Richard Barker in the flesh."  
- Jimmy Richardson,  
Matfen Hall GC