



Education Update

BY KEN RICHARDSON

Happy New Year to all members. My aim in 1996 will be to continue to provide education and training opportunities for all greenkeepers by attempting to meet your needs. This year commences with The Learning Experience, in association with Ransomes, at Harrogate from 22 - 26 January. Details of speakers and their talks appear elsewhere this magazine.

BASIS CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT POINTS

The Learning Experience, in association with Ransomes, is a must, not just because it offers the widest range of education and training to be found in Europe, give credits towards the Master Greenkeeper Certificate and provide evidence towards an N/SVQ qualification but also because BASIS has recognised the National Education Conference, Workshops and BTME seminars as meeting their requirement for awarding BASIS points. BASIS points will be awarded as follows:

- National Education Conference - 5 points
- Workshop 1 - 3 points
- Workshop 2 - 2 points
- BTME Seminars - 2 points per session

REGIONAL SUPERVISORY MANAGEMENT COURSES

In response to members' requests for more localised Supervisory Management Courses, I have arranged for two extra courses to be provided. These are Mildenhall on February 21/22 and Bedford on February 27/28. Please contact me for further details.

MIRACLES DO STILL HAPPEN

Well almost. At a meeting held at Aldwark Manor on December 5, the day following the very successful Miracle Premier Greenkeeper of the Year Competition 1995, it was decided that the competition would continue for at least another year. Roger Mossop and Richard Minton, from Miracle, were very impressed not only by the quality of the five finalists but also by the standard of all the entries, which have continued to improve through the years.

As one of the original aims of the competition was to encourage greenkeepers to better themselves, through education and training, and therefore to improve the standards of playing surfaces, they felt that the competition was achieving its aims and, therefore, worth saving. The rules of the competition for 1996 and the prizes awarded will be very similar to 1995's and are:

1. Entries may be submitted by Head Greenkeepers/Course Managers, club officials, golf club members and greenkeepers who feel that their head man and consequently their golf course deserves to be recognised for achieving the best possible standards from the resources made available.
2. All entries must arrive at Aldwark

Manor by 31 May 1996.

3. BIGGA Regions will each select their three representatives who will progress to the Region Finals.

4. The Regional Finals will take place in June/July and will consist of a fact finding visit (course evaluation) by a Regional evaluator who will be accompanied by a previous Premier Greenkeeper Finalist. They will select their Region's representative to progress to the National Final.

5. The five finalists will have their courses evaluated by a member of the BIGGA board, accompanied by a representative of Miracle Professional, during August/September 1996 prior to the final interviews taking place on December 8/9.

The prizes for the Competition will be:

Miracle Professional Premier Greenkeeper will receive a plaque, will be offered the chance to attend the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America Conference and Show in Las Vegas in February 1997 and will be presented with a cheque for £500 for his greenkeeping team.

The runner-up will receive a plaque and an all expenses paid London Weekend Break, for two, which includes the chance to see a West End show.

Third place will receive a plaque and an all expenses paid Weekend Break for two. Fourth and fifth will both receive a plaque.

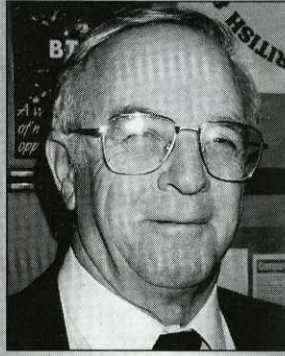
Remember, your course does not necessarily need to be another Augusta National. The judges are looking to see that you are getting the best out of your course, your staff and your

machinery, given a set amount of resources. Give it a try, you might even win.

LATEST BIGGA TRAINING VIDEO ON SALE AT BTME

The latest BIGGA training video titled 'Golf Green Reconstruction' will be on sale at BTME. The video shows some of the problems that may occur with greens, discusses some remedies and concentrates on green replacement. At £14.95 for members and £29.95 for non-members this 15 minute video represents superb value and should not be missed.

MY NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION IS:



"To relax and enjoy the golden years"
- Gordon Child, Churston GC, Devon (soon to be retiring)



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