

Education at BTME will be strongest yet

Welcome to a new year, Sami and I would like to wish all readers a very happy, prosperous and educational New Year.

We will soon be totally involved in preparations for the National Education Conference, Workshops, BTME seminars and the joint STRI/BIGGA Chairmen of Green/Secretaries Course all of which are seeing an increase in popularity for 1997. There are some places left for those who have not already booked but to make sure of YOUR place, give us a call at headquarters.

Bookings will be accepted for the BTME Seminars, on the day, but we cannot guarantee that places will be available. This year's education provision at BTME is the largest ever. Take the chance to improve your knowledge and skills in a wide variety of subjects.

Master Greenkeeper credits and BASIS CPD points will be awarded for all events, ask for details at the Conference and BTME Seminar reception. Remember that improved education and training leads to improved status for greenkeepers and improved golf courses for golfers.

BIGGA Lending Library

The Lending library now has over 400 books, with new titles constantly being added and all section secretaries have been sent an updated library list and application forms.

You may borrow a maximum of two books at a time for up to six weeks simply by writing to Ald-



Education Update

BY KEN RICHARDSON

wark Manor or by sending in an application form. Books, in stock, are dispatched by return of post and we ask that you return them within the six week period. Therefore, the only cost to you is return postage. If you prefer, callers at Aldwark Manor may also borrow books.

Regional Supervisory Management Courses

Plans are being developed for this Autumn's Regional Supervisory Management Courses and, following the success of last year's courses, demand for places is expected to be very high.

Don't forget, these courses are available to all greenkeepers and are designed to prepare them for supervisory and management posts. Once again, thanks to the contributors to our Education and Development Fund, we will be able to keep the cost of these courses, for BIGGA members, to approximately one tenth of the commercial rate for similar courses.

There are seven places still left on the Essential Management Skills course, at Gateshead, on 10/11 February 1997. This course is offered at the very low cost of £50, so make sure of your place by 'phoning now or by speaking to a member of staff at BTME.

Toro wins quality standard accolade for manufacturing

The Toro Company has achieved ISO 9000 certification for its commercial business and a component parts manufacturing facility. In 1995 Toro became the first full-line irrigation and commercial equipment manufacturer to obtain ISO 9000 designations.

ISO 9000 is a formalised set of quality definitions and standards developed by the International Organisation for Standardisation. A certified company has identified and documented processes that address all elements of the ISO 9000 standard that its facility or operation is pursuing. Once certification is achieved, the company is audited every six months to assure continued compliance.

"Toro holds itself up to the worldwide standard and makes it," said Greg Holaham, Total Quality Manager for the commercial business.

"The ISO certification is an important indication to our

customers that our quality processes are world class and that we are committed to continuous improvement."

A record quarter for John Deere

Deere & Company has announced record fourth quarter worldwide net income of \$173.9 million for the quarter ended October 31, an increase of 15% compared with 1995 fourth quarter net income of \$150.6 million.

Deere & Company Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Hans W Becherer said:

"Both the fourth quarter and the full year results represent new company earnings records. The company's operating margins remain strong as our focus on continuous improvement and growth is having a positive impact throughout our businesses."

(mis)adventures of Gordon the Greenkeeper



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Yet another benefit of
BIGGA membership



Doug Smith, Course Manager at Thorpe Hall GC, Essex, could be forgiven for looking a little bit bleary eyed of a morning. He has just become a dad for the second time when Keri Samantha entered the world weighing seven pounds three ounces on November 15. Keri is a sister for Jena who is nearly three.

FACT: EXPRESS DUAL GRINDING SYSTEM IS SIMPLE!