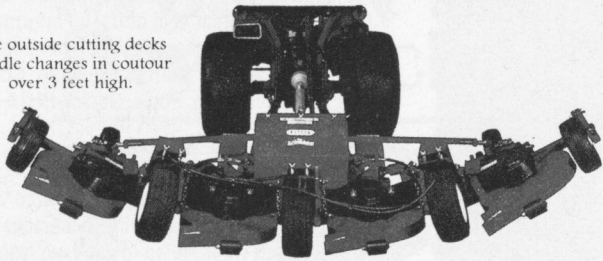


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Pace is hotting up

This month's article looks at the new Sports Turf Maintenance National Vocational Qualifications, the Slide Library, the Education and Development Fund the Golf Course Environment Competition and the Learning Experience 1998.



Education Update

BY KEN RICHARDSON

National Vocational Qualification in Sports Turf maintenance

As you may have read in the May Edition of *Greenkeeper International*, fine turf ie greenkeepers and groundsman now have their own National Vocational Qualification at Levels 2 and 3. This qualification supersedes the existing NVQ in Amenity Horticulture (Greenkeeping) and it is a close match to the Standards in the Greenkeepers Training Manual. The GTC, with the support of colleges and BIGGA has lobbied hard for more than three years to gain acceptance for this Turf qualification. An exciting feature of this award is that the GTC will be responsible for setting and monitoring the levels of equipment, resources and standards of training needed by any training provider wanting to offer it. The industry now has a qualification that it owns and it is industry that must ensure that Standards are met.

BIGGA Slide Library

I am beginning to gather a wide range of 35 mm colour slides for the BIGGA Slide Library. After my appeal last month, two companies, Rhône Poulenc and Sisis have said that they will supply some slides. My thanks to them, their contribution is welcome. We still have room for more slides and if any company wants their product shown in green keeper presentations please contact me at HQ.

Education and Development Fund

You should all have received a copy of the programme for this year's Regional Supervisory Management courses, which thanks to contributions made to the Education and Development Fund are offered at a very competitive rate. Other projects supported by the Fund this year have been the Golf Course Ecology Video and a reprint of the Pests and Diseases Field Guide. Head

Greenkeeper members will shortly be receiving an ecology poster with three more field guides due later in the year and a full catalogue of all of BIGGA's education and training opportunities is "at the printers". The Education and Development Fund is supported by 26 companies, who are acknowledged on the inside cover of this magazine, and by many individuals. Our latest individual contribution of £100 was handed in, anonymously, at Westurf and we are very grateful to Mr X.

The Learning Experience 1998 in association with Ransomes

Thank you to all those who have volunteered to speak at Harrogate, in January, at the Learning Experience. We have been able to put names to sessions and, thanks to the continued support of Ransomes, we should be able to provide another excellent Conference, Workshops and Seminar Programme.

Golf Course Environment Competition

The Golf Course Environment Competition, in association with Amazone and Rhône Poulenc is reaching its next stage. Thirty excellent entries were delivered to STRI on 16 May and a further batch sent at the end of May. Bob Taylor now has the difficult task of judging the entries before we can announce the National Winner and four Regional Winners, later in the year.

■ Sami Collins is pictured below with just some of the entries before they were delivered to the STRI.

