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# Be a winner

Although spring is with us and greenkeepers turn their thoughts to a new season of growth, my thoughts are turning to the autumn, when our major competitions reach their final stages, we start the next series of Supervisory Management Courses and to next January when the Learning Experience 1998 takes place.

Two new competitions have been announced for 1997. These are the BIGGA Golf Course Environment Competition and the Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping.

### The BIGGA Golf Course Environment Competition

Following two very successful years of competition run solely by Amazone Ground Care, this year has seen BIGGA and Rhône Poulenc Amenity join Amazone to run the BIGGA Golf Course Environment Competition. This competition is designed to reward those clubs that integrate ecological management with normal golf course management practices to ensure that golf and the environment are compatible. Full details have been sent to all golf clubs and leaflets are included in this magazine. Entries must be returned to BIGGA by 30 April 1997. Why not enter and your club could win a prize of £5000.

### The Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping

Joining the very successful Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award is the Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping. With prizes like a Toro Greensmaster triplex ride-on mower and a two week trip to the USA, prizes for the winner's greenkeeping team and for the runners up, this competition is sure to be popular with both greenkeepers and their golf clubs. Nomination forms have been sent out to golf clubs and they are also inserted in this magazine. Get your nominations off as soon as possible and we will send out entry forms to all nominees. All entries must be returned to BIGGA HQ by 30 May 1997. The National Final will take place, in Harrogate, on 26 and 27 October.

### The Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award

Now in its eighth year, the search to find the Toro Student of the Year has begun. Competition details and entry forms have been sent to col-



## Education Update

BY KEN RICHARDSON

leges and all entries should reach BIGGA HQ by 30 May 1997. The main points of the competition are:

- The winner receives the Toro scholarship to the USA and visits to the TORO factories and to the GCSAA conference and show in Anaheim, California.
- The winner's greenkeeping lecturer wins a visit to the GCSAA conference and show in Anaheim.
- The two runners-up win a visit to the GCSAA conference and show in Anaheim.
- Regional finals will be held in five locations during late July and up to eight students will be selected for the National Final which will take place on 26 and 27 October 1997.

### National Education Conference and Seminar Programmes

Videos, written transcriptions and audio tapes for Learning Experiences 1996 and 1997 are still available. Contact Sami at BIGGA HQ for more details or to ask for an order form.

### BIGGA Supervisory Management Courses

Detailed information on this year's Supervisory Management Courses will appear in the next issue of *Greenkeeper International*. Make sure that you book early to ensure your place on the Aldwark Manor Courses or on the two day courses around the Regions.

### WANTED!

This time of year is when planning commences for the Learning Experience, at Harrogate. After a very successful year in 1997 it will be more difficult than ever to find speakers and subjects for the National Education Conference and Seminar programme for 1998. Therefore, if you wish to listen to a particular speaker or hear a particular topic or even volunteer to speak, then please let me or Sami know.

The gathering of previous Toro winners during BTME 97

