



Education Update

BY KEN RICHARDSON

This month sees the deadline for three of BIGGA's major competitions and the launch of this year's Regional Supervisory Management Courses and the introduction of a scheme to assist greenkeepers to pay for education and training.

BIGGA Education and Training Grants

At a recent meeting of the BIGGA Education sub Committee and the BIGGA Board of Management, it was decided to introduce a scheme that was open to all greenkeeper members and would assist them with the payment of fees for education and training courses. Courses already subsidised by BIGGA would not be eligible and the scheme would only be available to individual greenkeepers and not their employers.

To be eligible greenkeepers must:

- Have been members of BIGGA for at least two years.
- Be attending education and

training that is relevant to their profession, ie. language courses, computing courses and motor mechanics would be eligible but wine and beer making would not.

- Have paid their own fees.

If the above criteria were met then greenkeeper members would be eligible to claim up to 80% of course fees to a maximum in any one year of £200. Refunds of fees would not be paid until proof of completion of a course (or courses) had been provided. A limit has been set for the maximum amount that the Association would grant in any one calendar year and the scheme would work on a first come first served basis. Greenkeepers will be invited to submit applications in February each year and the first grants will be awarded in 1998. Watch out for further details in *Greenkeeper International*.

Toro Student of the Year Competition

The deadline for this competition is 30 May 1997. Some entries have arrived at BIGGA HQ but many colleges still have to respond. Remember that regional judging will take place in July this year, commencing in Scotland on 28 July, moving to Bradford on 29 July, Hemel Hempstead on 30 July and Cheltenham on 31 July. This competition not only gives

you the chance of winning the prestigious Toro scholarship but also gives you the chance to boost your career prospects.

Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping

The entry deadline for this competition is 30 May 1997. Make sure that you have a chance of winning by submitting your application NOW and it could be your chance to win a Toro Greensmaster 3000 mower for your golf club and a trip to the United States for yourself.

Regional Supervisory Management Courses

Full details of these courses have been inserted in this magazine. If you have not received your copy then contact BIGGA HQ. New locations for this year are Northern Ireland and South Wales and new subjects include Golf Course Design Construction and Maintenance, Leadership Skills and Recruitment and Selection. These courses are excellent value and are becoming very popular so make sure of your place by booking early.

BIGGA Slide Library

As mentioned in previous articles, we have started a collection of 35 mm colour slides which will become the BIGGA Slide Library. If you have any slides that you

wish to donate then please contact BIGGA HQ.

The Learning Experience 1998

Plans are well advanced for the National Education Conference, Workshops and seminars for January 1998 but there is still time for you to become involved. If you would like to talk or would like to hear a particular speaker or would like to suggest a topic for discussion then please let me know. New for the Education Conference in 1998 will be a "Greenkeepers Question Time", when a panel of "experts" will try to answer your greenkeeping problems. Watch out for further details in *Greenkeeper International* but in the meantime make notes of the questions that you have always wanted answered.

BIGGA Golf Course Environment Competition, in association with Amazone and Rhône Poulenc

Although the deadline for entries into this competition was 30 April, there is still time to enter your club and compete for the first prize of £5000. Fill in your entry form today and send it to reach BIGGA HQ by 16 May.

INTRODUCING THE NEW GREENSMASER 3200-D.

