

Ken Richardson keeps us up to date with all the latest events in the BIGGA Educational calendar...

A YEAR OF OPPORTUNITY

I noticed this week that the Learning Experience 2000, in association with Textron Turf and Specialty Products is only 435 days away which must mean that the Learning Experience 1999 is 70 days away.

Thankfully, the programme is set for 1999 and applications are flooding in. If you have not booked your choice of Workshop, National Education Conference, Secretaries/Chairman of Green Course, Seminar and or accommodation package then contact Sami on the BTME hotline 01347 833833 as soon as possible.

Back to basics

New for 1999 will be a workshop on Basic Machinery Maintenance, complementing the successful Irrigation and Golf Course Design Workshops which make a welcome return.

The National Education Conference will again be held in the Majestic Hotel, with speakers from all parts of the industry sure to offer something for everyone. Please note that David Oatis from the United States Golf Association will not be able to attend and give his talk at the Conference nor on the Seminar Programme. However, Mr Stan Zontek has agreed to attend in his place.

Seminar Programme update

The Seminar Programme will again be held in the Royal Hall, beginning with a keynote speech by Mr Frank Dick, commencing at 11 am on Wednesday 20 January. Frank Dick is well known for his prowess as an international athletics coach and for his work as an expert in motivation. Free to anyone who wants to attend, this seminar should give all levels of greenkeeper an insight into how to motivate themselves and their staff.

Master Greenkeeper credits

All three workshops, the National Education Conference and Seminars will, once again, attract Master Greenkeeper credits and BASIS Continuing Professional Development points. Please ask for details at the Conference Office or at Seminar Registration in Hall G.

Competition update

October was a very busy month for all of us at BIGGA HQ as you have read elsewhere in this magazine. Not only did we have the arduous task of moving to our new headquarters building, packing and unpacking, sweeping, polishing, erecting furniture, recataloguing the library and a host of other jobs needed to make the new facility workable

but we also had the finals of three major competitions. Firstly, the BIGGA Golf Course Environment Competition, in association with Amazone Ground Care and Rhône-Poulenc Amenity. Following the final stages of judging by Dr Peter Hayes and Bob Taylor from the STRI, Lindrick Golf Club were selected as worthy winners, receiving a cheque for £5000 and the BIGGA Golf Course Environment Trophy from His Royal Highness the Duke of York, at the Askham Bryan Golden Jubilee Conference on Golf and the Environment. Runners up cheques for £250 each were presented, by His Royal Highness, to Loch Lomond Golf Club, Mid Herts Golf Club, the Dyke Golf Club, Broadstone Golf Club and Royal Porthcawl Golf Club. The next week saw the finals of the TORO Student of the Year and Excellence in Greenkeeping Competitions won by Sally Doherty and John Coleman respectively. I am sure that, as Scott says in his column, that they will both make worthy winners, enhancing their own reputation that of their golf clubs and the reputation of the profession of greenkeeping. It was pleasing to see that they have both been formally educated and trained as greenkeepers and see themselves having a long term career in the industry.

Sally wins the TORO Scholarship at the University of Massachusetts and John also wins a trip to the USA as well as the TORO Triplex Mower for his club.

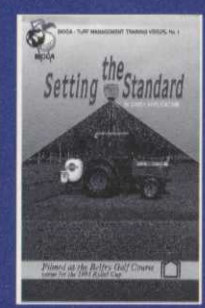
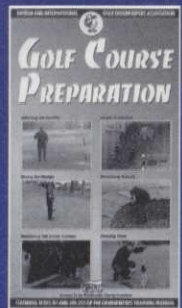
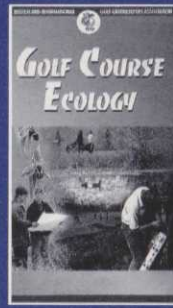
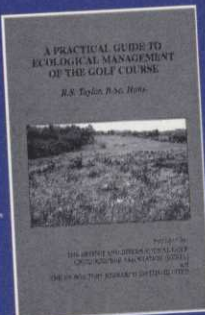
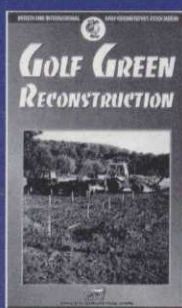
Available soon...

The Develop your Potential Booklet, listing the full range of education and training opportunities available through BIGGA should be reaching you soon. Contact HQ if you need further copies or pick up a copy at BTME from the BIGGA Stand in Hall G.

Nineteen ninety eight has been even busier for Sami and me. We continue to strive to provide the training and support that greenkeepers need and we get immense satisfaction from seeing greenkeepers improve their knowledge, skills and confidence. Remember, training courses, competitions and other training opportunities are staged for your benefit. Why not make a New Year's resolution to become more involved, attend courses and improve your status.

Sami and I hope that you all have a very happy Christmas and an educational New Year.

ON COURSE WITH BIGGA EDUCATION



Golf Course Preparation Video
 £14.95 to BIGGA members
 £29.95 to non-members

Golf Course Reconstruction Video
 £14.95 to BIGGA members
 £29.95 to non-members

Ecology Book
 £3.00 to BIGGA members
 £7.00 to non-members

Ecology Video
 £14.95 to BIGGA members
 £29.95 to non-members

Raising the Standards of Mowing Management Video
 £14.95 to BIGGA members
 £29.95 to non-members

Setting the Standard in Spraying Application Video
 £14.95 to BIGGA members
 £29.95 to non-members