

Ken Richardson announces the launch of three new competitions...

Take up the challenge

Thanks to the continuing support of Ransomes, we were, once again, able to give an increased number of delegates a true Learning Experience.

The National Education Conference and Workshops started the week off on a high note with some very high quality presentations and intellectually stimulating subjects. The use of a new liquid crystal projector and high quality slide projector ensured that all conference presentations could be seen and should ensure a better quality of video. Despite the problems that we had rearranging some early seminar session, due to a problem obtaining slides, the BTME Seminars gave all attendees something to ponder, with a record number attending the talk by Mr Ortiz Patino. With the Seminars returning to the Royal Hall, there was space for all those who wanted to attend and it was gratifying to see over 100 delegates still in the Hall at the end of the last session. Thank you to all those who presented papers at the Conference and Seminars and to those who organised and ran the three workshops. We are thinking about the programme for 1999, already, and if anyone can suggest speakers or topics that they would like to hear then please contact me as soon as possible. Written tran-

scriptions and videos of all Conference and seminar sessions are available from BIGGA HQ.

Three major competitions were launched at Harrogate, the TORO Student of the Year, the TORO Excellence in Greenkeeping and the BIGGA Golf Course Environment Competition, in association with Amazone Ground Care and Rhône Poulenc Amenity. All registered training providers will be sent copies of the Student of the Year leaflet and entry forms in the near future. So make sure that your college submits an entry.



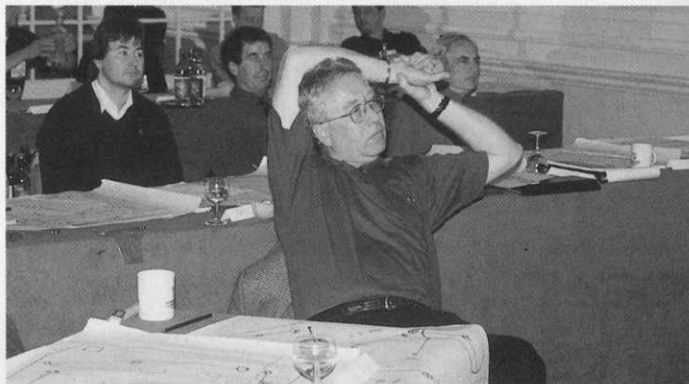
Remember, the winning student wins the TORO Scholarship, including an eight week study tour to the USA and the winner's lecturer wins a trip to the GCSAA show, which will be held in Florida, in 1999. Leaflets for the Golf Environment and Greenkeeping Excellence Competitions were available at BTME and will be sent to all golf clubs and head greenkeeper/course managers during February and March. Judging for the Greenkeeping Excellence Competition has been changed and courses will be judged by a panel of judges comprising respected, retired greenkeepers, chaired by Walter Woods. Additionally, the Competition is open to Master Greenkeepers and/or winners of the previous Miracle/Zeneca/ICI competition.

The last local supervisory management course of the 1997/98 season will take place at the Courtyard Hotel in Bradford, on 16 and 17 February. There are still plenty of places left for anyone who wishes to attend.

The Refund of Education/Training Expenses Scheme started in January 1998. Application forms for a refund of fees can be obtained from BIGGA HQ.

Finally, I would like to congratulate Chris Carpenter and Andy Campbell on becoming the tenth and eleventh Master Greenkeepers in the United Kingdom, which added to the five Master Green-

keepers in the USA gives us a total of sixteen. The next Master Greenkeeper examination will take place on 28 and 29 March. Anyone wishing to sit the examination should contact me or Sami as soon as possible. Full details of the Master Greenkeeper Scheme can be obtained from BIGGA HQ.



Top: Billy McMillan thinks our sign which could do with a bit of levelling itself! **Above:** Concentrating hard during the golf course design workshop. **Below:** Our two latest Master Greenkeepers pictured here receiving their plaques from Chairman, Pat Murphy



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