

# Last minute seminar changes at BTME 98

The Institute of Agricultural Engineers have, unfortunately, had to cancel their seminar, which was due to take place on Wednesday, 21 January, between 10am and 12 noon.

However, thanks to a combination of luck and forward planning together with the excellent support of speakers and Jacobsen EZGO Textron, I have managed to organise an even better seminar. Seminar A on Wednesday 21 January will now be:

10 am-10.40 am: TREES, THEIR NECESSARY MAINTENANCE, GOOD AND BAD PRACTICE, by John Nicholson, Associate Consultant, Eamon Wall and Co.  
10.40 am-11.20 am: REEL GRINDING, by Don Laschansky, Managing Director, Foley.  
11.20 am-12 noon: GREENS MOWERS, by David Withers, National Accounts Manager, Jacobsen EZGO Textron.  
12 noon-12.40 pm: THE PRINCIPLES OF TOP DRESSING, by Scott Kinkead, Managing Director, Turfco.

Remember that I have had to move the Seminar by Jaime Ortiz Patino from Wednesday, 21 January, at 1pm to Thursday, 22 January, at 1pm.

Unfortunately, it is now too late to book a place on the National Education Conference and all three Workshops are completely full.

However, you can book places on Seminars, on the day, at Harrogate. Anybody wishing to book a place on their choice of Seminar, should contact Sami Collins on the Seminar Registration Desk in Hall G. Thanks to the continued Support of Ransomes Simms and Jeffries, the Learning Experience 1998 has something for everyone at very affordable prices. Remember, training and education should continue throughout your career. Better trained greenkeepers leads to better golf courses and to an improvement in the status of the industry.



## Education Update

BY KEN RICHARDSON

### BIGGA Refund of Fees Scheme

As I have announced in previous editions of *Greenkeeper International*, the BIGGA Refund of Fees Scheme commenced in January 1998.

To be eligible for a refund, you must meet the following criteria:

- You must be a member of BIGGA and have been a member for at least two years.
- You must have paid your own fees and be able to provide proof of payment eg receipt/credit card slip or statement.
- You must have completed a course, or component part of a course, and be able to provide evidence of completion eg certificate/end of course report etc.
- If you are starting a course in 1998 you may apply for a refund to be paid on course completion as in (c).
- The course must not be subsidised, already, by BIGGA.
- The course must be relevant to your job as a greenkeeper.

Members will be able to claim 80% of fees paid up to a maximum of £200. Application forms will be available in the February Edition of *Greenkeeper International*, on the BIGGA Stand at BTME and from BIGGA HQ. Applications will be dealt with on a first come first served basis. For further information, contact Ken Richardson or Sami Collins at BIGGA HQ or at BTME.

### Health and Safety Training

Training in a range of Health and Safety subjects can be arranged through BIGGA. These include, Chain Saw Competence, Pesticide Application and First Aid. Contact Ken Richardson or Sami Collins at BIGGA HQ for details.

# Pesticides training for sprayer operators

Pesticides legislation first came into effect in 1986 with the Food and Environment Protection Act (FEPA) and was followed a year later by the Control of Pesticide Regulations.

Add to this COSHH Regulations in 1988 and you would think a decade later everyone involved on Greenkeeping would have been trained and, where necessary, certificated.

So who does this concern?

Well, anyone using Pesticides – i.e. Herbicides, Fungicides, Insecticides or Growth Regulators must be trained and competent to carry out the work.

Three categories of people must hold National Proficiency Test Councils (NPTC) certificates namely: 1. Those born after 31 December 1964. 2. Those who act as contractors ie on land not managed by their employer. 3. Those who supervise someone else without a certificate.

If you fall outside these categories then, technically, you don't need a certificate but it is recognised by HSE as the best proof of being competent.

So how do you get a certificate?

The easiest way is to attend a recognised training course. This should prepare you for the necessary tests. An ATB-Landbase course would be as follows:

Most training courses will take a minimum of two days.

Day One – Safe Use of Pesticides. This covers all the background needed by any spray operator. It covers:

Knowledge of Legislation; Interpreting the product label; Selecting suitable protective clothing;

Storage and transportation; Disposal of pesticides and containers; First Aid; Environmental Issues.

Of course anyone working on golf courses and greens will have the added problems that paying customers and public cause. Its difficult to fit in spraying around clients who start at first light and finish at dark! This course prepares the trainee to be take the NPTC test PA1.

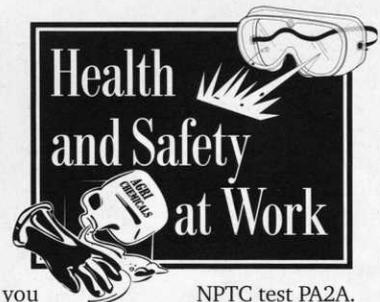
Day two will deal with what ever type of equipment you use. Most commonly for greenkeepers will be knapsack sprayers or CDA's (Controlled Droplet Applicators).

The course covers:

Checking over the sprayer Calibration/Accurately spraying an area (with imitation Pesticide/Disposal of Washings and Decontamination

This course prepares the trainee for NPTC test PA6A.

Some people may use small



tractor mounted sprayers and a course programme similar to the previous one is written to link in with the

NPTC test PA2A.

Anyone with little or no experience might expect to double the training period to four days and, of course, supervised practice is advisable for everyone prior to taking a test.

The testing is not carried out on the training course but arrangements are usually made with the local test committee secretary so the tests take place one or two weeks later.

So that's the outline for anyone needing full training. Of course, many operators have been trained over the last decade and to keep up with changes in both legislation and technical developments a one day refresher course is a useful idea.

■ For further information on training courses and consultancy contact ATB-Landbase (Jean John on 01282 831973 or Andrew Morton on 01430 860057).