

**Ken Richardson gives details on competition progress and outlines a host of education opportunities available to greenkeepers...**

# ON WITH THE JUDGING...



**The BIGGA Golf Course Environment Competition in Association with Amazone Ground Care and Rhône Poulenc Amenity**

This Competition is progressing well with Bob Taylor from STRI and Dr Keith Duff from English Nature reaching the final stages of judging. The Regional Winners and the National Winner will be informed as soon as possible. His Royal Highness the Duke of York has agreed to open the Askham Bryan Golden Jubilee Conference on Golf and the Environment on Wednesday, October 21, 1998, and, in addition, His Royal Highness has kindly agreed to present the prizes for this Competition.



## **TORO Student of the Year Competition 1998**

After six very difficult days of judging, the TORO Student of the Year Judging Panel comprising Peter Mansfield, from Lely, Pat Murphy, Immediate Past Chairman and myself, with David Cole, from Lely, deputising for Pete in the South East Region, finally selected the eight National Finalists. We had to make some difficult decisions as all students nominated for the Competition have been selected, from a large number of college students and the Standards were extremely high.

This not only makes them all win-

ners, but it also makes the final selection even more difficult. The National Finalists are; Gary Gruber and Stephen Myers, both representing Elmwood College; Richard Atkin, representing Myerscough College; Mark Allen and Sally Doherty, both representing Warwickshire College; Paul Shelley, representing Oaklands College; Jeff Mills, representing Cannington College, and Nicholas Webber representing Greenmount College.

Congratulations to all eight National Finalists and commiserations to all those not selected.

The National Finals will take place at Aldwark Manor on Monday October 26.



## **TORO Excellence in Greenkeeping Competition**

Following a meeting of the judges, in York, six finalists were selected for the National Final which will take place on Monday 26 October, alongside the Student of the Year Competition. The six judges, Jimmy Nielsen, Barry Heaney, Bill Lawson, Paddy McCarron, Eric James and Gordon Child had a very difficult job selecting six finalists as the standards, this year, were extremely high. The six finalists are John Quinn, from Elmwood College Golf Course; Andy Campbell, from Carden Park Golf Resort, Hotel and Spa; John Coleman, from Abbeydale Golf Club; Peter Wisbey, from the National Golf Centre, Woodhall Spa; Allan McDougall, from Royal Mid Surrey Golf Club, and Richard Whyman, from Bude and North Cornwall Golf Club.

Congratulations to all six candidates and thank you to all those who took part or nominated candidates, helping to make the Competition a success.

# TOP OF THE CLASS?

## **The Learning Experience sponsored by Textron Turfcare and Speciality Products**

Following BTME 1998, Ransomes became part of the Textron Company and sponsorship of the Learning Experience is now provided by Textron Turfcare and Speciality Products. Thanks to Textron's generosity, the Learning Experience 1999 will provide an incredible range of training for every category of greenkeeper, at the National Education Conference, Workshops and BTME Seminars, at a very low price. Watch out for full details appearing in the October Edition of Greenkeeper International.

## **Aldwark Manor and Local Training Courses**

Applications for both Local and Aldwark Manor Courses are arriving at HQ at a steady rate. However, some courses do not have any delegates registered and the deadline for deciding if and when to cancel courses is fast approaching. Send your application to HQ today. Courses with insufficient delegates are:

**Golf Course Design in Northern Ireland, Plymouth and Swansea.**

**Project Management in Northampton.**

**Pesticide Management in Falkirk.**

**Interviewing Skills in Falkirk.**

**Report Writing at Aldwark Manor, Maidstone and Hemel Hempstead.**

**Employment Contracts at Taunton.**

**Health and Safety at Taunton, Nottingham, Bournemouth and Aldwark Manor.**

That was the bad news.

The good news is that we have had a such a demand for the Essential Management Skills Course at Chester on 3 and 4 December 1998, that we have arranged another course at the same hotel on 1 and 2 December 1998. Additionally, the Irrigation Workshop, at Walsall is now full. An Irrigation Workshop will, however, be held as part of the Learning Experience, at Harrogate in January 1999.

Please note that the date given in the August edition of Greenkeeper International for the Chester Essential Management Skills Course was incorrect.

As outlined above, these courses will take place on 1-2 and 3-4 December 1998. Additionally, the date for the

Golf Course Design Construction and Establishment at Newcastle, Co Down will take place on 24-25 November, and not as previously stated in the magazine.

## **Managing Effectively**

This two-day course enables delegates to understand and practise the basics of managing their staff. Subjects include; management style, team building, communications and motivation.

**Cost £570 + VAT including lunch on both days.**

No, this is not a BIGGA course but a nationally advertised course available this Autumn. However, BIGGA does run a course that covers similar topics and includes accommodation, for a mere £30 + VAT. Moreover, BIGGA offers a wide range of courses designed to meet the needs of all greenkeepers, all at low prices. This does not mean that we reduce the quality of training, we subsidise the costs of local courses from the BIGGA Education and Development Fund to make the Courses as widely available as possible. As I wrote in last month's magazine, use them or lose them.

## **Vocational Qualifications**

New vocational qualifications for golf greenkeepers were introduced in September 1997.

This meant that the old qualifications i.e. the Level 2 NVQ in Amenity Horticulture (Greenkeeping) award number 0326-02 and the Level 3 NVQ in Amenity Horticulture (Sportsturf) award number 0326-03, would be phased out. City and Guilds have stated that the last date of certification for the old Level 2 award will be 31 May 1999 and that the last date of certification for the old Level 3 award will be 31 May 2000.

For candidates in Scotland, the Scottish Qualifications Authority have stated that the last date of certification for the old Level 2 award will be 30 October 1999 and that the last date of certification for the old Level 3 award will be 30 October 2000. Therefore any candidate registered on the old awards should ensure that they provide evidence of competence for all units of the awards before the cut off dates. The new qualifications are not affected by this ruling. Further information may be obtained from BIGGA HQ, or, from the Greenkeepers Training Committee.