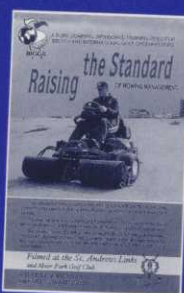
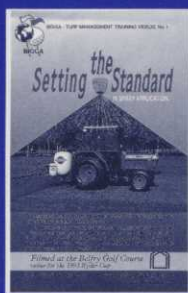
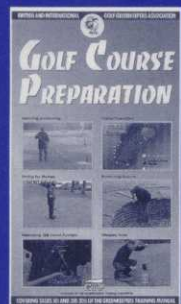
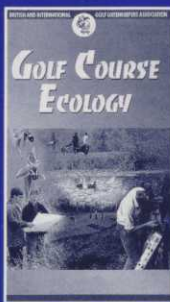
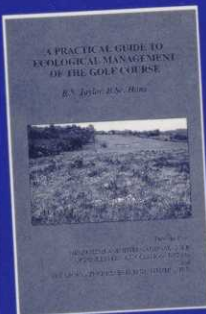
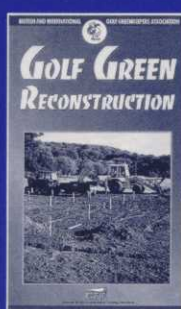


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British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association
BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Aline, York, YO61 1UF

Tel: 01347 833800 Fax: 01347 833801 Email: education@bigga.co.uk



Education Time

Sami is back from her trip to the GCSAA Show and Conference, in Orlando, and I am fully recovered from the bug that laid me low for some three weeks, when I discovered for the first time in more than 30 years of work what a sick note looked like. Although we are busy sending out videos, written transcripts and thank you letters for the Learning Experience 1999, we are starting to plan for the Learning Experience 2000 which will have the title Past, Present and Future. If you have any ideas on what should be included then please let me know. With the continued support of Textron Ground Care and Specialty Products we hope to make the Learning Experience 2000, to steal Scott's words, 'the Best Ever.'

The BIGGA Golf Environment Competition

If you wish to emulate the success of Lindrick Golf Club, who won the 1998 Golf Course Environment Competition, you must be thinking about your entry NOW. Amazone Ground Care and Grass Roots Trading Company are joining us again to run the Competition for 1999. The competition is designed to reward those clubs that integrate ecological management with normal golf course management practices to ensure that golf and the environment are compatible. Full details have been sent to all golf clubs and head greenkeepers. However, if you have not received your copy then contact BIGGA HQ and we will send out full details by return of post. Entries must be returned to BIGGA by 3 May 1999. Why not enter and your club could win the first prize of £5000. All clubs visited by the judges will be offered the chance to purchase a copy of the detailed report on their course, which will also include an action plan.

The TORO Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping

With prizes like a TORO Greens master triplex ride on mower and a two week trip to the USA, and prizes for the winner's greenkeeping team and prizes for the runners up, this competition proved to be popular with both greenkeepers and their golf clubs in 1998. John Coleman, from Abbeydale Golf Club in Sheffield, last year's winner, has just returned from the USA where he visited the GCSAA Show and Conference and the TORO factories. This year could be your turn. Nomination forms have been sent out to golf clubs and head greenkeepers but if you need a copy then contact BIGGA HQ. Get your nominations off as soon as possible and we will send out entry forms to all nominees. All entry forms must be returned to BIGGA HQ by 28 May 1999. The National Final will take place, in Harrogate, on 24 and 25 October. Please note that Master Greenkeepers and winners of the ICI/Zeneca/Miracle Premier Greenkeeper Competition are eligible to enter.

The TORO Student of the Year Competition

Now in its tenth year, the search to find the TORO Student of the Year has begun. Competition details and entry forms have been sent to colleges and training providers and all entries should reach BIGGA HQ by 28 May 1999. The main points of the competition are:

1. The winner receives the TORO scholarship to the USA and visits to the TORO factories and to the GCSAA conference and show in New Orleans.
2. The winner's greenkeeping lecturer wins a visit to the GCSAA conference and show in New Orleans.
3. The two runners-up win an all expenses paid visit to the Learning Experience 2000 at Harrogate.

This month, Ken Richardson gives a timetable of which educational items are up and coming

timetables

4. Regional finals will be held in six locations during late July, and up to eight students will be selected for the National Final which will take place on 24 and 25 October 1999.

Refund of Education/training fees

Funds are still available for those wishing to claim a refund of education/training fees. 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 1999, 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. Contact BIGGA HQ for an application form.

Health and Safety

New Health and Safety regulations continue to be published. Two of the newer sets concern the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 (PUWER 98) and the Lifting Operations Regulations 1998 (LOLER). Both PUWER 98 and LOLER relate to work equipment in all work sectors.

They maintain and improve existing standards eg there is now an absolute requirement to carry out lifting operations safely. The additions to PUWER 98 include:

- Minimising risks from roll over
- Preventing startup from unauthorised persons
- Providing a device for braking and stopping
- Providing adequate devices to improve a driver's field of vision, where necessary for safety

LOLER require that lifting equipment has adequate strength and stability; requires risks from positioning and installing of lifting equipment to be minimised and requires that lifting equipment be marked with its safe working load. Safe Use of Work Equipment: Approved Code of Practice and Guidance and Safe use of Lifting Equipment: Approved Code of Practice and Guidance, are available from HSE books or from the BIGGA Library.

Stop Press

Andy Campbell, Course Manager at Carden Park has arranged a visit to Carden Park, by Thomas Maloney, Senior Extension Associate in Human Resources at Cornell University. Mr Maloney, who is the co author of the GCSAA's book Human Resource Management for Golf Course Superintendents, has agreed to conduct a seminar on Leadership and Motivation at Carden Park, on Monday 26 April 1999.

The Seminar is free to all BIGGA members but will of main interest to Course Managers/Head Greenkeepers.

Watch out for further information in the next edition of Greenkeeper International or contact Ken Richardson at BIGGA HOUSE.

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