

BIGGA's Education and Training Manager, Ken Richardson prepares for an extremely busy month...

EDUCATION UPDATE

October is always a busy month in the Education and Training Department as we prepare for the Finals of the TORO Student of the Year and Excellence in Greenkeeping Competitions, for the Final of the Golf Course Environment Competition, for the BIGGA House Supervisory and Management Courses, for the start of the Regional Training Courses and we begin to take bookings for the Learning Experience.

TORO Competitions

Thanks to TORO's continued sponsorship, the Excellence in Greenkeeping and Student of the Year Competitions continue to attract high quality entries year after year. The Competitions ensure that the prize winners receive top quality education and training opportunities and they also help to improve the quality of golf courses and monitor formal education and training standards. Details of the Finalists for the Student of the Year Competition and for the Excellence in Greenkeeping Competition appear on pages 36-37 of this magazine.

Golf Course Environment Competition

The number of entries for the BIGGA Golf Course Environment Competition in association with Amazone Ground Care and the Grass Roots Trading Company, was the highest ever in 1999. The judges, Bob Taylor and Jonathan Hart-Wood from the STRI and Dr Keith Duff, from English Nature have had a very diffi-

cult job selecting the Regional and National Finalists from the large number of high quality entries. Full details of prize winners will appear in the November edition of this magazine.

The Learning Experience 2000

You should have received a copy of the Learning Experience 2000 brochure with the September edition of Greenkeeper International, however, additional copies can be obtained from BIGGA House. There are a number of changes for 2000 as regular visitors will have noticed from their brochures. What does remain constant, however, is the support of Textron Turf Care and Specialty Products which makes the Learning Experience possible.

The National Education Conference, which takes place in the Majestic Hotel, on 17 and 18 January 2000, has a new look for the Millennium, with four in depth tutorials taking the place of the varied, shorter, less intensive talks of previous years. Each session has been designed to be thought provoking, perhaps controversial and, most importantly, audience led.

Monday morning on 17 January sees Jim Snow, Dr Stephen Baker and John Wells lead the session on golf green construction. Jim Snow is the National Director of the United States Golf Association Green Section. He has been involved in the 'USGA Green Specification' for many years and has a wealth of knowledge on greens construction. Dr Stephen

Baker is the Head of Soils and Sports Turf Science at the STRI. He has been at Bingley for almost twenty years and he is, currently, carrying out research for both the R&A and USGA on aspects of golf green construction. Stephen was also a member of the Advisory Committee responsible for the 1993 revision of the USGA Construction Recommendations. John Wells, who is the Course Manager at Bocket Hall became a Master Greenkeeper in 1995. He is nearing the end of the Project to construct a second course at Bocket Hall which introduces a further 18 holes, 6 par 3 holes and a 3 hole academy. John, who was a speaker at a previous Education Conference has given many lectures on the subject of 'From Soil to Sand Greens'.

This is your chance to get those burning questions answered. What are the advantages/disadvantages of USGA greens, do they cost more to maintain than soil greens, what will happen to the USGA specification in the future, what's wrong with soil anyway? etc etc.

Monday afternoon's session looks at Effective Soil Water Management for Optimum Turf Quality, with Demie Moore and Justin Smith. Both experts in the field of water management, Demie and Justin have presented lectures around the world. Is there a link between sand based greens and water management? Find out on Monday 17 January.


Tuesday 18 January begins with an in depth look at Integrated Pest

Management, with Dr Paul Miller, Team Leader Curriculum at Elmwood College, Dr Kate Entwistle, Turfgrass Pathologist, STRI and Steve Jones, Golf Courses Superintendent, The London Golf Club. With a scientist from STRI, an academic from a Greenkeeping Training College and a practising Golf Course Superintendent, this session should answer all of your questions on turfgrass diseases and how to control them. Or will it? Find out by being there and asking those questions that you need answering.

Tuesday afternoon continues the theme of theory and practice, this time looking at Grasses for Golf Courses.

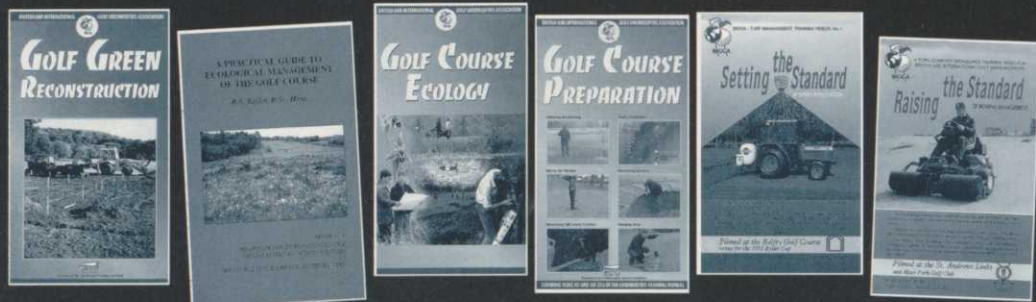
There is still time to book a place on a BIGGA House Supervisory Management Course and/or on one of this year's Regional Courses. Contact Ken or Sami to check on availability.

Full details of the education and training options available at BTME2000 are included in 'The Learning Experience' brochure.



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