

Hold on to your socks!

This month your magazine should contain a copy of the Learning Experience 2000 brochure, detailing the delights that await you at the end of next January's annual pilgrimage to Harrogate.

Harrogate in January has many attractions but the bedrock of everything is education and thanks to the support of Textron Turf Care and Specialty Products the education programme just gets better and better.

This year a major revamp of the Education Conference, based on the feedback received from delegates at previous Conferences, has resulted in two days of intensive discussion on four main topics - Golf Green Construction, Water Management, Integrated Pest Management and Grasses for Golf Courses.

Papers will be delivered by some of the major authorities in their respective fields and with more time to develop themes and arguments it should result in some thought provoking debate.

Running parallel to these will be five workshops - on Computing for Greenkeepers; a follow-up to the successful recent Golf Course Design workshops, given by Howard Swan and Simon Gidman; Machinery Maintenance, given by Textron; Written and Verbal Communication, with Brin Bendon and Frank Newberry, and another, Golf Course Presentation, aimed at assistants, delivered by those two Doyens of the Industry, Walter Woods and George Brown.

Having completed the first part of the week the Seminar Sessions during BTME itself have the theme Past Present and Future, and again the speakers have been hand picked. A totally new addition will be the Careers' Advice Clinic, where Brin Bendon and Frank Newberry, will advise on CVs, application forms, interview techniques etc.

This element of the week will be kicked off by another Motivational talk - started so successfully last year by Frank Dick. This year it will be delivered by Simon Weston, a remarkable guy, whose current career only began after just surviving horrific injuries sustained in the Falklands War. His talk should be an inspiration to us all.

If you are already a regular visitor you can only imagine what a new improved Learning Experience will be like. If you have never been, make the effort next January. It will blow your socks off.

One welcome visitor to Harrogate next year might well be James McEvoy, who will be able to enjoy it all in a more relaxed frame of mind.

For the last three years James has worked hard, in his role as BIGGA's Sales and Marketing Manager, to expand and improve BTME and funnily enough the bigger and more successful the Show became the more grey hair he began to sport.

He leaves the Association to take up a marketing post with a telecommunications company before he could be mistaken for a clean shaven Santa Claus.

His enthusiasm, drive and commitment were infectious and I'm sure those same qualities will captivate everyone in his new business in just the same way.

I'm sure you will join me in wishing him all the best for the future. I will always have doubts about his dodgy putting stroke though...

Editor:
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Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL

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Cover photo: Nigel Rudd, Edinburgh College of Art

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