

UPDATE

Important news about the learning experience

Unfortunately, it is now too late to book a place on the National Education Conference or Workshops.

However, you can book places on Seminars, on the day, at Harrogate. Anyone wishing to book a place on their choice of Seminar, should contact Sami Collins on the Seminar Registration Desk in the Royal Hall. Thanks to the continued support of Textron Turf Care and Specialty Products, the Learning Experience 2000 has something for everyone at very affordable prices.

New for BTME 2000 is the Careers Clinic in the Kings Suite. Manned by Brin Bendon and Frank Newberry, the Clinic should provide the knowledge and skills needed to find that new job.

The BTME Seminars start at 11 am on Wednesday 19 January with a FREE Keynote speech by Simon Weston. Simon is recognised throughout the World for his optimism, humour and enthusiasm and is a popular choice of speaker. This is on only chance to hear this talk at it will not be available on video.

Students and Lecturers should note that entry to all Seminars is free on production of a Student Membership card, Student Union card or other relevant documentation.

BIGGA's Education and Training Manager, Ken Richardson, looks at some forthcoming events in which you can participate.

EDUCATION FOR THE NEW Millennium

Sami and I would like to wish all our readers a very Happy, Prosperous and Educational New Year and a bug free Millennium!

Greenkeepers Pay and Conditions of Service

Following a number of queries about the Year 2000 Recommendations on Greenkeepers Salaries and Conditions of Service since their release in September, we were asked to look again at the recommended rates for First Assistants. After some deliberation, the Chairman of the Standing Committee decided that the recommended rates for First Assistants should be in line with all other rates ie an increase of 2.2% on the 1999 recommended rates. An amendment slip is included with this magazine but if you need extra copies then call at the BIGGA stand in Hall Q at BTME or contact BIGGA House.

The BIGGA 1999 Essay Competition

Congratulations to William Bowden (under 25), Simon O'Hara (over 25) and Kerran Daley (Course Manager), the winners of the 1999 BIGGA Essay Competition, who each receive £500. Winning Essays will be printed in February, March and April, in this magazine.

The Year 2000 Essay Competition will be launched at BTME.

There are three categories: Head Greenkeepers/Golf Course Managers and deputies; Assistants and Students

aged 25 and over; Assistants and Students aged under 25.

Entrants are required to write an essay of between 1500 and 2000 words long ie. five to seven type written pages.

The Essay will be marked to an agreed criteria by selected BIGGA representatives. The subject matter is 'Managing without Chemicals', How would you manage your course if today's products were not available?

The last day for entry is 27 October 2000 and the winners will be announced in the January 2001 edition of Greenkeeper International

The winners of each category will receive £500 with two runners up in each category receiving £100.

Start thinking, start writing and submit your entry to be in with a chance.

Computers in Greenkeeping

I am continuing to provide training in Computers and Computing around the Regions and I have completed four, 2 day courses during 1999. Each course is free to members and can take up to six delegates. Areas covered include Hardware-what is it/ what do I need/ how does it work/ what does it cost? Software-what is it/ how do I use it? Applications, including Word Processing, Data bases, Spreadsheets, e-mail and Internet. Contact your Section Secretary if you feel that you would benefit from training in the selection and use of computers.

Visit the BIGGA and the Epani

stands at BTME to discover how you could take your golf course management practises into the 21st Century.

Regional Training Courses

Despite a large dose of apathy in some areas of the Country, our Regional training courses continue to attract enthusiastic delegates each year. Work is already under way to design this year's courses, but if you would like to see a particular subject covered in your region then please let me know.

BIGGA House Courses

The five weeks of BIGGA HOUSE Courses are being redesigned for the Year 2000 and beyond. Although containing much of the material from previous courses, the new courses will be modular and reflect the changes in N/SVQ Standards. Watch for detail in future editions of Greenkeeper International.

Reducing noise at work

New guidance on ear protection has been developed by the HSE. It explains employers legal duties, the types of protection available, information on when to wear it, how to wear it and maintenance tips.

Single copies of 'Ear Protection Employers Duties Explained', 'Protect your Hearing' and a poster 'Wear ear Protection Properly' are available free of charge from HSE Books Tel: 01767 881165.

THE GRAND TOUR SCHOLARSHIP

Bettina Schrickel pictured with Jeff Baker and Bill Spence at the Country Club, Brookline, MA, USA



Thanks to the efforts of Bettina Schrickel, Rain Bird International is sponsoring a travel scholarship for four turfgrass/golf course architecture students in the Year 2000, called the Grand Tour Scholarship.

The Grand Tour Scholarship offers study tours to leading golf courses of the United States with two students travelling the Eastern Route and Two travelling the Western Route.

Both study tours will take place in April and students will visit 22 golf course in four weeks on the Eastern Route and 18 courses on the western Route in three weeks. The scholarship covers air tickets, car hire, hotel expenses and a cellular

telephone. Applicants must possess a valid passport, an international driving licence and comprehensive travel insurance before departure.

The deadline for applications is 30 January 2000 and application forms are available from BIGGA House or direct from Bettina by fax on 00493320564035. Applicants must be over 21 and be able to prove significant educational achievements in their chosen career ie turfgrass and/or golf course architecture.

Further information may be obtained from Bettina on 00493320564034 or at BTME as she is giving a seminar on Thursday 20 January called "Is the grass really greener on the other side?"