



BIGGA's Education and Training Manager, Ken Richardson, reports on the latest education and training developments and gives details of the education and training opportunities on offer at BTME in Harrogate later this month...

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

Richard is an experienced speaker and excels in project management. Find out what it is like to be strapped to a jet engine at more than 600 MPH when you attend this free session.

You get even better value for money on Thursday morning, 25 January when five speakers will present seminars. Chrys Bird from Milliken Chemical will speak on the relevance of Soil Structure Management to Improved Drainage, from 11.00 to 11.30 and Simon Barnaby, from Scotts UK Professional, will follow speaking on USGA Spec. Does it Work?

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.

Continuing Professional Development

Attending the National Education Conference, Workshops and BTME Seminars will give you BIGGA CPD credits.

The BIGGA CPD Scheme runs from July to June each year and is designed to allow greenkeepers to:

- Adapt outdated skills
- Keep in touch with changes in legislation
- Accumulate evidence towards further qualifications
- Regularly update knowledge
- Show their professionalism

The scheme is open to all BIGGA members who must have a minimum level of qualification of N/SVQ or equivalent.

You can get further information on the BIGGA CPD Scheme at the BIGGA Stand in Hall Q, from the BIGGA Website or from BIGGA HQ.



BIGGA Environment Competition

Congratulations to the Dyke Golf Club on winning the Year 2000 BIGGA Golf Environment Competition. Full detail are given elsewhere but I would like to express my thanks to the Dyke for hosting the presentations.

The day was joyful and sad as Mr Rod Baker, Managing Director of Amazone and instigator of the Environment Competition, announced that he was leaving Amazone Ground Care. Rod has been the driving force behind the competition for six years and we shall miss his enthusiastic support.

It is encouraging to think that over 300 golf clubs have been encouraged to manage their golf courses in an environmentally friendly way thanks to this competition. The Media would have us believe that there is only bad news about the environment but they do not look at golf courses. Rare birds, flowers, butterflies, grasses and a whole range of flora and fauna are returning to the countryside thanks to golf courses.

A full report on the Dyke GC and the other finalists in this year's environment competition appear on page 34. You can also get information on previous winners, and on how you can enter, by visiting: www.bigga.org.uk



Water, Water, Water

The R&A could not have chosen a more apt title for the first of their roadshows on the use of water on golf courses, which was held at the Marriott Dalmahoy Hotel on 2 November 2000. Organised by Michael Barrett for the Golf Course Advisory Panel, the Roadshow attracted more than 70 delegates, mainly from Scotland to listen to a range of expert speakers on subjects ranging from the Environment to Water Shortages.

The whole event was summarised by Mr George Brown, Course Manager at Turnberry, who said that water was needed to keep fine turf growing. However, the use of irrigation should be kept to a minimum and used only when nature did not provide.

Further Roadshows will be held in England Wales and Ireland during 2001.

Myerscough Turfgrass Foundation Annual Conference

Blackpool was the venue for this year's Myerscough Turfgrass Foundation Annual Conference which took place from 13 to 16 November. Titled 'In pursuit of Excellence' the Conference covered a range of subjects from Poa Annua, through Rootzones to Construction. Speakers from Ireland, the United Kingdom and the USA presented some very technical papers which raised many points of discussion (some quite heated) which continued into the night, over dinner in the Hotel and even into Blackpool's famous (or is it notorious) nightclubs.

Feedback from speakers and delegates show that the Conference was a great success and it has become a key part of the Fine Turf Education Calendar.

Important news about The Learning Experience 2001 brought to you with the continued support of Textron Turfcare and Amenity Products

There is still time to book your place on this year's Learning Experience. The closing date for applications is 10 January 2001. Contact Ken or Sami at BIGGA HOUSE if you need an application form.

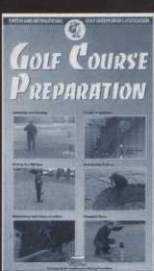
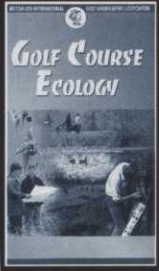
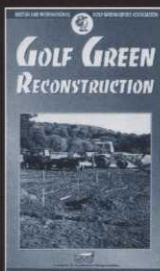
You can book places on seminars, on the day, at Harrogate. Anyone wishing to book a place on their choice of seminar, should contact Sami Collins on the Seminar Registration Desk in the Royal Hall, which is approached through Hall M.

The Careers Clinic was a proven success at the 2000 BTME and it will be held, once again, in the Kings Suite (note changed location). Manned by Brin Bendon and Frank Newberry, the Clinic should provide the knowledge and skills needed to find that new job.

The Royal Hall is the venue for this year's BIGGA Essay Competition and Master Greenkeeper Presentations which will take place at 10.40 with our President, Sir Michael Bonallack doing the honours.

Starting the BTME Seminar Programme off with a bang will be Richard Noble OBE, of Thrust I, Thrust II and Thrust SSC fame.

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