Education Update

Anyone contacting the Education and Training Department during April would have realised that both Sami and I were not in the office for a good part of the month. Sami was recovering from surgery on her knee and I was researching the effect of seawater on fine sand in the Maldives writes Ken Richardson.

The AGCS/BIGGA Safety Management TORO Student of the Year Competition System



As I mentioned in the April edition of Greenkeeper International, the internet based Safety Management System is nearing completion and it should be available to all members during this month. You will find an information leaflet in this magazine and we will be distributing a 'getting started guide' in next month's magazine.

Many golf clubs already have very good safety management systems whereas some do not have any form of health and safety management. This SMS will enable golf clubs to implement a safety management system that will make their clubs better and safer places to work and they might even save money on insurance premiums.

The SMS is not a 'turn key' solution. Clubs will need to put in some effort to ensure that the System works for their club. Some clubs may not have anyone competent to implement the SMS and they will have to employ the services of a health and safety advisor or have a person or persons trained.

All employees of the club should be involved in implementing the SMS and should receive training in risk assessment and basic health and safety management.

The AGCS/BIGGA SMS contains a wide range of health and safety information, including example risk profiles for the Clubhouse, for the kitchens, for the Pro Shop, for the Golf Course, for greenkeeping activities and for the Maintenance Facility. Each Risk Profile is linked to example Risk Assessments that should help you assess risks at your golf club. Risk Profiles are also linked to detailed information on a wide range of hazards from Airborne Dust and Debris to Young People at Work.

The Risk Profiles and Risk Assessments have been developed by a team of Golf Course Managers, Golf Club Secretaries and Health and Safety Advisers to meet the needs of most golf clubs. However, clubs must ensure that all risks and hazards at their clubs are included in their Risk Profiles and in their Risk Assessments.



The deadline for entries to the TORO Student of the Year Competition is May 4. However, there is still time for training providers to nominate their

candidates. The Regional Finals will take place during the week commencing July 2, when a team of judges will select the eight national finalists. The National Final will take place on September 17 at BIGGA House. For more details or for an application form please contact BIGGA House.



Mike Emptage, last year's Toro Student of the Year

BIGGA Golf Environment Competition



You should be receiving an application form for the 2007 Golf Environment Competition during May. We are able to continue this competition only with the generous support of our sponsors. Unfortunately, one of our 2006 sponsors, Course Care, have decided that they no longer wish to continue their sponsorship and we are, therefore, struggling to make the competition viable.

This competition has gained a reputation for encouraging golf clubs to use sound environmental management principles and to show the general public that golf helps the environment.

If there is anyone out there who would like to help make this competition a continuing success by helping with the sponsorship for 2007, please contact Sami or me as soon as possible.

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both companies and individuals.

For details, phone contact for Richardus 01347 833000 or via kent@biggs.co.uk

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