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Greenkeeper International: winner of Certificate of Merit in Magazine of the Year category, Editing for Industry Awards 1994 and 1995

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■ The next edition of Greenkeeper International should be with you by March 15

International

FEBRUARY 1997

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At one with nature

Rudding Park in Harrogate is the most environmentally aware golf course in the country. Scott MacCallum walks among the

Regular features

As I see it Pat Murphy hits the ground running following his appointment as BIGGA Chairman, taking over from Dean Cleaver. With BTME 97 only just over, there's hardly time to draw breath before the GCSAA show in Las Vegas....Page 4

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Some of the action from BTME 97 - a week not to be missed by anyone in our industry Pictures by Tim Moar and Scott MacCallum



INS MANAGEMENT EXAME

Greenkeeper Education and Development Fund

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ADVERTISING WORKS IN GREENKEEPER INTERNATIONAL:



Based upon the responses which I monitor, I have to say that the 'Buyer's Guide' is one of

the most cost effective ads which I place. Hence, Sovereign Turf is about to be included for the fourth consecutive year

- STEVE WILLIAMS.

FOR MORE DETAILS CALL:

James McEvoy, Amanda Freeman or Jenny Panton at BIGGA HQ on 01347 838581.

Perfection is just down the road...

Well that's it for another year. BTME has come and gone and, judging by the number of congratulatory messages from delegates and exhibitors, all the hard work leading up to Harrogate paid off.

That's extremely gratifying because the preparation work which, incidentally has already begun for BTME 98, takes up a great deal of time. As you know when preparing for Captain's Day, giving time to the small things as well as the large makes all the difference and that attention to detail is noticed by the people who matter.

It was while at Harrogate that I was told of this wonderful new golf course.

It sounds absolutely superb and I'm tempted to get my name down as quickly as possible.

From what I've heard it's open 365 days a year, even when there's three feet of snow. There's never any disease on the course and the greens never stimp at less than 10 – even in the winter.

The Course Manager must be some kind of magician because he has fewer staff than at my current club and the capital expenditure budget is just a fraction of ours but he always seems to be able to produce perfect results.

I gather he never needs to hollow tine or vertidrain and as for temporary greens... You can forget them. Never strays from the greens on which we were intended to play – and the holes are always perfectly painted.

I also believe the flower beds around the clubhouse rival Augusta National's.

You never see greens staff on the course but I'm told the club never has to pay any overtime. So I don't know when the work gets done.

It's also in line for a

Tour event sometime soon.

The whole place is something else. Outside, there's a dropping zone for your bag and it appears on the first tee with every club head gleaming and groove clean while you can see your face in your highly polished shoes. They even replace the spikes you lost the round before.

Inside the clubhouse there are saunas, jacuzzis, a swimming pool and gym. There are 10 snooker tables while you never pay more than £1.25 for a pint.

Oh yes. There's a team of volunteers to drive your car home for you if you've enjoyed yourself too much at the dinner dance.

When I heard all this it really whetted my appetite, more so, when I learned that the green fees are only £175 per year and there isn't a joining fee.

Obviously I wanted to meet the Course Manager, who speaks four languages and dances like Fred Astaire, but I was told he was back at the club personally trimming all the ladies' tees with nail clippers.

The name of this club? Well the guy at the bar referred to it only as "The Club Down the Road".

Sound familiar?



As I see it...
BY PAT MURPHY
BIGGA CHAIRMAN

t gives me great pleasure to be writing my first column as Chairman. I still remember receiving the call from Dean Cleaver just over a year ago asking if I would be his Vice Chairman. You could have knocked me down with a feather. The prospect of having the honour of being **BIGGA's National** Chairman in the vear of the Association's 10th anniversary soon began to dawn on



me. And now that day has arrived.

May I start by paying tribute to the magnificent work of Dean and Barry Heaney, who was last year's Past Chairman. Both are wonderful ambassadors for the Association and I have two great examples to follow.

My year has already actually started. There's no time to ease your way gently into the post in this job!

BTME was an outstanding success and I was overwhelmed by the warmth and sincerity of the congratulations I received from everyone. It makes you proud to be associated with such an industry.

I don't think we could have a better place for our annual get together than Harrogate, the atmosphere is very special and I'm sure BTME at Harrogate will go on getting better and better.

I'd like to thank the BIGGA staff for all their hard work during BTME. It's an occasion which highlights what a wonderful job they do for us.

BIGGA has certainly come a long way in the last 10 years and under Neil Thomas' guidance the Association is now only second behind the GCSAA in terms of membership. The importance of the Association and of BTME can be seen by the number of overseas visitors we had this year. I believe we had 17 different nationalities represented and in some cases large delegations attended.

I mentioned the GCSAA and I'm looking forward to going to Las Vegas this month for their exhibition and show where no doubt I will meet up with our five American Master Greenkeepers who do such a great job in promoting BIGGA.

As I look further ahead I'm looking forward to having the opportunity to meet many of your personally up and down the country.

Before I close I must mention the one disappointing element of BTME. It was the unfortunate duty of the Board on the final day to sit on disciplinary matters concerning two of our members. We must always be aware of the duty we have to our fellow members and the Association and behave in a

professional manner. Remember it is possible to enjoy yourselves and present the right impression at the same time.

Phafy

Open invitation to BIGGA members

Applications are invited from members to join BIGGA's Greenkeeping Support team for the 1997 Open Championship at Royal Troon GC.

Those wishing to be considered must be Full members of the Association and should be available from Wednesday evening July 16 to Sunday evening July 20. The opportunity to take part in one of the most important golf events of the year is open both to team members from previous years and also those members who are wishing to participate for the first time.

Duties will be allocated on a rota basis over the four days of

play and include early morning course preparation, bunker raking while matches are in play and evening course maintenance. Members may also be also asked to co-operate with the gathering of information for distribution in the Press Centre which helps raise the profile of the Association at the Championship. All members of the Support Team will be expected to remain on the course throughout the day and be available in the event of any unfore-seen circumstances arising.

Accommodation, all meals and transport will be provided by the Association but successful applicants will be expected to pay their

own travelling expenses from home to the Championship and return.

Those members wishing to be involved should put their names forward in writing to John Pemberton, Administration Manager, at BIGGA HQ, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York YO6 2NF, to be received no later than March 14.

All candidates' names will then be placed into a draw to select the successful applicants. If you have not been to this event before in this capacity and wish to learn more about what will be expected please do not hesitate to contact John. Tel: 01347 838581.

Dampener on bird box success Steve Thompson, of John

Steve Thompson, of John O'Gaunt GC, has some bitter sweet news about the success of the bird box he put up in association with the Hawk and Owl Trust of the golf course – see June '96 Green-keeper International.

The box has been used but when it was checked by a member of the Hawk and Owl Trust the bodies of two barn owl chicks were found and there was no sign of the adult.

"It's great to know that the box was being used but sad that the chicks had died and that something had obviously happened to the adult," said Steve. "It appeared as though the chicks were about six weeks old," he added.

Incredibly another discovery in the box was a golf ball buried in among the pellets.

"I knew that the box had been hit a few times by golf balls but it's quite incredible that one actually found its way inside. It's unlikely that it had caused the deaths as it had obviously been there for some time."

A kestrel box has also been put up at John O'Gaunt – it is a different shape from the one used by the barn owls – but there has been no sign of kestrel activity to date.



Peter Bell, General Manager, Jacobsen: looking ahead to broader customer base

Jacobsen set to take over Iseki franchise in UK

Jacobsen UK Ltd and Massey Ferguson have completed negotiations under which the Iseki franchise for the UK will be transferred from MF to Jacobsen.

In a joint statement, the two companies said that under the MF umbrella, the Iseki business had earned a leading position as one of the top three suppliers of specialist grounds maintenance in the sector of the market up to 40hp. Now, complemented by Jacobsen's extensive range of high quality

turf maintenance equipment, the new arrangement will provide a broader customer base to ensure continued growth and offer users one of the widest choices of top quality products from a single supplier in the UK market.

Massey Ferguson will continue to serve the local authority and grounds maintenance markets with tractors over 40hp from its mainstream ranges available from the nationwide MF agricultural dealer network.

Association welcomes new staff

There were two new faces at BIGGA Headquarters at the beginning of 1997, Karen Conroy, who is Neil Thomas' new PA, and Tony Cocker, who joins the Association as a part time Accounts Assistant.



Karen is from Harrogate and joins BIGGA from Leedsbased company On Demand

Information, a supplier of Multi Media information.

A relatively new convert to the game of golf she has been playing for 12 months and like a great many others insists she has "more enthusiasm than ability". Her love of the game of golf was one of the main reasons she was delighted to join the Association as was her desire to move away from the large, impersonal type of working environment.

"In the short time I've been at Aldwark Manor I have found it extremely easy to fit in and I'm looking forward to a long and enjoyable career with BIGGA," said Karen, who fills the vacancy left by Vickie Peckham who left the Association late last year.



Tony is a fully qualified accountant and retired from his full time position of Company

Secretary and Accountant for York & County Press last year. Born a Lancastrian he has lived in York since 1979 but would vehemently reject any "Honorary Yorkshireman" status.

A keen footballer and cricketer in his youth he once scored an own goal past a legendary England amateur goalkeeper who never spoke to him again while he has also played cricket on the Test Ground of Old Trafford for North Lancashire Schools. While no longer playing he is still a keen follower of Blackburn Rovers and Lancashire CCC.

Other hobbies include an interest in railways and stamp collecting.

not a blast from the past, more a glimpse of the future



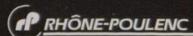
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Boost for environment competition

BIGGA's commitment to golf course ecology and the environment has been further reinforced by the launch of the BIGGA Golf Environment Competition in association with Amazone and Rhône Poulenc Amenity, which was announced at BTME 97.

The competition which was originally conceived and launched two years ago by Rod Baker, Managing Director of Amazone, encourages golf clubs to take an active interest in ecology and promote the existence of the many varieties of flora and fauna golf courses are natural homes to. It also encourages the reinstatement and management of historical aspects of golf courses, such as wetlands, heath and natural woodlands which provide habitat for many of our wildlife species.

"I must pay tribute to the wonderful initiative and commitment shown by Rod Baker and his team at Amazone in putting such a valuable competition in motion two years ago and I feel sure that Rhône Poulenc Amenity's involvement and the expertise we have at BIGGA will ensure that the competition will go from strength to strength," said BIGGA's Executive Director, Neil Thomas.

"I am delighted that our initiative in starting and developing the Golf Environment Competition is now to receive 'industry' support



Jonathan Hill, Rhône Poulenc Amenity's Market Development Manager; Rod Baker, Managing Director of Amazone Ground Care and Neil Thomas, Executive Director of BIGGA with entry forms for the competition

so that it can be maintained in future years, and that the positive involvement of Amazone Ground Care is to continue. It was always our intention that, having given this unique competition a two year track record we could invite support of this calibre to ensure its future," said Rod Baker, Managing Director of Amazone Ground Care.

"Rhône Poulenc Amenity is delighted to be sponsoring this competition which will encourage and enhance the wildlife on many of our golf courses. The careful use of our products and golf course management that encourages wildlife do go hand in hand and our involvement with this competition fits well with the understanding that pesticides are an important tool in turf management," said Jonathan Hill, Rhône Poulenc Amenity's Market

Development Manager.

This competition is a further example of the commitment shown by BIGGA to ecological and environmental matters and comes at the same time as the Association launches its "Golf Course Ecology" video which highlights some of the wonderful projects currently under way on Britain's golf courses and gives other golf clubs ideas on how to promote good ecological practice on their own courses.

The BIGGA Golf Environment Competition in association with Amazone and Rhône Poulenc Amenity, is open to every golf club in the country. Entry forms will be available from BIGGA Headquarters and clubs will qualify for the final via five regional finals – South East, South West and South Wales, Midlands, Northern and Scotland.

There will be prizes for the Regional winners while the winning golf club nationally will receive £5,000 to be put to use in the further development of environmental and ecological projects on the golf course.

The current holder of the Amazone Environmental Award is Rudding Park GC, appropriately in Harrogate where the new BIGGA Golf Environment Competition in association with Amazone and Rhône Poulenc Amenity was launched.

BIGGA and Toro launch new award

Britain's Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers have something new to aim for in '97 with the launch of The Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping.

The Award completes a unique double for The Toro Company as it already sponsors the Toro Student of the Year Award and the finals of both events will be held together at Aldwark Manor in late October.

The golf club of the winning Course Manager or Head Green-keeper will win a world renowned Toro Greensmaster 3000 triple greens mower while the individual winner will earn a two week trip to the United States, taking in the Golf Course Superintendent of America Association Conference and Show as well as a trip to visit the Toro Company's Headquarters in Minneapolis and Riverside, California.

"To have one sponsor for both of BIGGA's top individual greenkeeping awards seems to make perfect sense and for that company to be Toro is a major boost for the greenkeeping industry. I am sure that The Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping will be a target for many of the top greenkeepers and golf clubs in the country," said BIGGA's Executive Director, Neil Thomas.

"We are delighted to increase our commitment to BIGGA and the greenkeeping industry through The Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping which, combined with the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year, gives the Toro Company the two most prestigious awards for greenkeepers in the country. It is also a further example of Toro's long term commitment to the development and education of the industry," said Bob Buckingham, Toro's European Sales Manager.

"I am delighted that the involvement which Lely has had in the shape of the Student of the Year Award has increased with the addition of The Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping to Toro's portfolio. I have noticed a steady increase in the standard of the Student finals and am sure the ever improving greenkeeping



Graham Dale, left, Managing Director of Lely, Neil Thomas, Executive Director of BIGGA and Bob Buckingham, Toro's European Sales Manager with the magnificent prize on offer

standards generally will see the quality of The Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping finals rise steadily as well," said Graham Dale, Managing Director of Lely, Toro's UK distributor, and a

man who has, and will continue to be heavily involved in the judging of the finals.

Brochures and nomination forms will be sent out to golf courses in February and March.

Premier Line



Pattissons own brand of aerosol line marking paint especially designed for use on Golf Courses can be obtained in red, yellow, blue and white. Also available in the Premier Line range are two and four wheel applicators and a hand held applicator, for easy to use applicating with minimum mess and maximum effect.

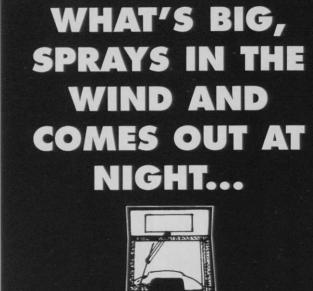


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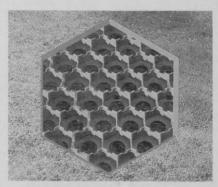
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Three more **Golden Key** sponsors join Fund

BTME 97 saw three new companies joining BIGGA as Golden Key sponsors.

Amazone Ground Care, the PGA European Tour and Bailey's of Norfolk received their Golden Key plaques from the Association's President, Viscount Whitelaw, at the Chairman's Lunch held in the Majestic Hotel, Harrogate, on the Wednesday of BTME week.

"We are delighted to welcome Amazone Ground Care, the PGA European Tour and Bailey's of Norfolk as Golden Key sponsors. The future of the Education and Development Fund, which is such a vital component in the education of greenkeepers, is assured thanks to the generous contributions of our new and existing Golden and Silver Key sponsors," said BIGGA's Executive Director Thomas.

Another company which received its plaque from Viscount Whitelaw was John Deere, which became a Golden Key sponsor during

Amazone Ground Care, the PGA European Tour and Bailey's of Norfolk join the other 14 Golden and six Silver Key



Cut above the rest

The second Great BIGGA Bunker Competition at The Open Championship at Royal Lytham and St Annes in the summer was won by Patricia Davies, of The Times, who was presented with her superb prize, a Hayter Harrier lawn mower, at The Belfry just before Christmas.

The media competition involved estimating how many bunkers would be found by players during the Championship with the data collected by the BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team. A member of the team is assigned to every match and rakes all the bunkers found by players, thus ensuring professionally raked sand and minimal delay in play.

The genuine winner of the competition should perhaps have been the course itself because, no doubt influenced by the winning number of 701 at St Andrews the vear before, everyone was woefully short in his or her prediction.

Patricia's estimate of 1113 was the highest among those who entered, although still well short of the final figure of 1618 bunkers found by players during the Championship.

The Great BIGGA Bunker Competition will take place for the third year at Royal Troon in July when the BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team will again be in action. The 50 strong team not only rakes the bunkers but assists the home club's greenkeeping staff with the general day to day preparation of the golf course and also collects interesting on-course news snippets for circulation in the Media Centre.

■ The picture shows Patricia Davies being presented with the Hayter Harrier lawn mower, valued at over £650, by Kim Macfie, left, Sales and Marketing Director of Hayter. Greenkeeper International Editor Scott MacCallum looks on.

Make a date for the best in the west

There's lots to see, lots to try, much to learn and friends to meet. A combination hard to beat in the west country. On April 30, at Long Ashton GC, Westurf will provide all this free just for you.. So don't miss out of the very best in the west.

Westurf is the first outdoor exhibition of the year where you can see every type of turf care machinery demonstrated on an area which includes fine and outfield turf. The products and accessories on show will cover your every need from seed to turf fertilisers to top dressers, tools to irrigation.

You are sure of a welcome on the BIGGA stand, and you can enter the competitions. Come in and talk to staff and your Regional Board. You can get advice from the experts on insurance and legal matters, and if it is education you need advice on, all the Region's colleges will be there to talk too. Westurf is for you. Make that note in your diary - April 30.

BIGGA flies the flag at conference in Portug

In December BIGGA was represented by Chairman Dean Cleaver and Administration Manager John Pemberton at the 1996 PGA European Tour biennial Greenkeeper Conference held at The Meridian Penina Golf Hotel, Portugal. Headed by John Paramor and Richard Stillwell and jointly sponsored by Ransomes and Levington Horticulture, the conference brought together Course Managers from most of the leading European courses as well as delegates from as far away as Australia and Dubai.

During the week long event talks were presented on a wide range of topics including Health and Safety by Jon Allbutt; The Rules of Golf, by PGA European Tour Tournament Director, Andy McFee; Rebuilding the Henry Cotton designed Penina course by agronomist, George Shiels; the Golf Professional's course expectations by former European number one, Ronan Rafferty, as well as presentations by the sponsors.

As with most events of its kind the conference also gave participants the opportunity to make new acquaintances, renew friendships, as well as exchange experiences and ideas. BIGGA Student of the Year runners-up John Bachelor and Noel Greene were particularly active in soaking up as much knowledge as possible in the presence of such high profile company.

"The conference proved to be an invaluable opportunity to discuss current greenkeeping issues as well as strengthen relationships between the PGA European Tour and BIGGA" said John Pemberton.



Send your letters to The Editor, Greenkeeper International, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York YO6 2NF or fax them on 01347 838864.

My first trip to BTME will not be my last

I felt I must write and congratulate all involved with the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition and Seminar programme. I am ashamed to say that this was my first visit but it certainly will not be my last. Unfortunately Martin Gunn (Course Manager) and I could only stay for two days. Martin because of a construction programme and myself as my own business does need me occasionally.

The event is run on the most professional lines and the lectures I attended were extremely well presented and very interesting. Having sat through lectures presented by American, European and British lecturers it was fascinating to realise that we all seem to agree on what is best for British golf courses. All we have to do now is to educate the golfer

Over the seven years I have been involved in Golf Course Management, Martin and I have visited many clubs and spoken to green staff all over the British Isles. It has always been worthwhile and I have always been shown great courtesy and patience. Our visit to Harrogate gave us the opportunity to renew old friendships and to make new ones. We learnt as much in the bar and over the dinner table as in the Seminar.

If only club golfers appreciated the asset they have in their greenstaff. I am always impressed with the dedication and professionalism of the people responsible for our golf courses. They deserve all the support they now

receive from enlightened golfers.

Malcolm Peake, Chairman of Green, Temple Golf Club

hest a minute...

It is of the utmost importance that an esteemed organ such as Greenkeeper International takes an active role in making its readership aware of Health and Safety matters and the magazine should be applauded for the

considerable effort taken to highlight such issues.

Unfortunately one area seems to have been completely missed. Using the photographic evidence in both the magazine and the 10th anniversary calendar, it seems that a combination of exposure to Longlife Fertiliser combined with paint and a strong light renders parts of the body temporary invisible. This must have been embarrassing for the model, although as the invisibility seems to be very localised ie in the chest area use of a

warm vest should suffice until her nipples reappear.

The question that needs answering is what does the aforesaid combination of elements do the male anatomy? Am I to be doomed to a life of worry in case one limb disappears half way through a presentation to my committee? If two limbs disappear, am I to expect them to reappear one at a time, or are they like buses and travel in pairs? When they return will they be on the correct side and be pointing in the same direction? I am

sure that you will agree that this is an area of great concern.

I plead with you to continue the magazine's crusading approach in order to bring sufficient pressure to bear on the manufacturers of either the paint or the fertiliser to research all possible side effects. Secondly, could I suggest that the young lady in the photograph to be contacted and invited, as my guest, to the first of Kent Section's golf days. I am sure that the extra large turnout would enable us to collect a considerable amount of

money towards a disability fund for her. Richard Page, Shortlands GC, Bromley

A job well done

I would like to direct this correspondence to the entire BIGGA staff and the general membership.

Our most recent visit to the BTME was to date the best conference I have ever attended due to two factors. Number one was the manner in which the staff attended to every detail in its planning and the follow through. You are all to be congratulated on a job well done. Second is the fellowship among the membership and the fellowship among the membership and the relationship one feels between the organisation and other greenkeepers.

Each year, since my first BIGGA conference in Ayr, Scotland, I return to the States anxious to spread the word of what wonderful colleagues we have overseas in the golf industry and how welcome they make you feel in their country.

A very special thanks to Barry Heaney, Dean Cleaver and Patrick Mur-phy, who, as did the BIGGA staff, went out of their way to make my wife's visit an extremely enjoyable one also

A most sincere thank you, one and all, for your hospitality and friend-

Bill Montague, MG, Oakwood Club, Cleveland, Ohio

Help me out of a hole

I am a third year Golf Course Management student at Cannington College and for my major assignment this year I am studying bunker placement and design. I would greatly appreciate any information relating to the subject and examples (sketches, description, planner etc) or exceptional and different bunkering and bunkers. This would include those which are considered to have been placed fairly or unfairly, those which have been removed and why and why new bunkers have been introduced to a

The help of any greenkeeper who has been involved in such work would be of great benefit to me

Paul Bawden, 12 Ruth Close, Stanmore, Middlesex HA7 1HQ



Delegates in the 'Communication with Committees' workshop during the Learning Experience

Update

RICHARDSON

What a majestic week in Harrogate! Or was it a week in the Majestic? I suppose the answer is both. The Learning Experience goes from strength to strength

and, thanks to the continued support of Ransomes, we are able to offer delegates an entertaining and educational week.

It would not be possible to list all that happened during the week but I have tried to highlight some of the more memorable events that took place. More than 150 delegates and 14 speakers from five different countries made sure that the Education Conference was a success.

It was pleasing to see that the majority of delegates were still in their seats, late on Tuesday afternoon to watch Dr Paul Miller use a computer generated slide show to show how Elmwood College had conducted the rootzone testing for their new golf course and to hear Dr Marty Petrovic, from Cornell University, speaking about managing compaction. Thank you to all speakers at the conference who made sure that the week started off so well. More than 70 greenkeepers were taking part in four workshops while the conference took place. From the feedback that we received, I know that everyone enjoyed themselves, even though some people had sore brains at the end of each day. Thank you to all speakers at the Workshops.

A special event took place on Tuesday evening when the Toro Company held a reunion dinner for all past winners and runners-up of the Student of the Year Competition. This was a most enjoyable event and it was pleasing to see so many old faces and catch up on what had happened over the seven years since the Competition

Tuesday saw us move the Learning Experience to the International Centre and the Kings Suite for the Seminar Programme. The seminar programme was varied and the talks were delivered most professionally. The compactness of the Kings Suite compared to the Royal Hall ensured that all speakers could guarantee a responsive audience who gave a lot of feedback.

The launch of the new BIGGA video, Golf Course Ecology, took place on Wednesday afternoon with more than 20 members of the Press being given a chance to preview

the video and question Education BIGGA staff, Bob Taylor, from STRI, and Roger Greenwood, from Goodwood Productions. The feedback so far has been excellent and if you have not yet obtained your copy,

> they are available from BIGGA HQ priced at £9.99 to members and £19.99 to non-members. The Press Conference also saw the launch of the BIGGA Golf Course Environment Competition, in association with Amazone and Rhone Poulenc Amenity Care. This competition, which has been very successfully run by Amazone for two years should be even more successful in the future. Almost 60 people asked for application forms, during Harrogate week. Further details will be sent to golf clubs and appear in this magazine next month.

Another new competition was launched at BTME. The Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping joins the Toro Student of the Year Award as a major competition in BIGGA's calendar. This new competition which aims to reward the winning greenkeeper and his/her golf club is designed to recognise that greenkeeping excellence can only be achieved if clubs and greenkeepers work together. Prizes reflect this with the winning Head Greenkeeper/ Course Manager attending the GCSAA conference and show in California, in 1998 and visiting the two Toro factories and the winning club receiving a Toro Greensmaster Triplex Ride on Mower. Watch out for more details in this magazine in the very near future.

Finally, I am starting to plan the Learning Experience for January 1998. If you know of any speaker or would like a particular subject covered then please let me know.

■ The next Master Greenkeeper examination will take place on March 20-21. Anyone wishing to sit the examination should contact Ken Richardson at BIGGA HQ.



The 'Levelling and Surveying' workhop