



## World Champion Chainsaw

Competitors from 28 countries including Great Britain recently took part in the 23rd World Foresters' Championship in Austria, to decide the supreme chainsaw champion. Competitors had to complete five demanding disciplines: felling, limbing, combination cutting, precision cutting and fast chain replacement. The results speak for themselves: the gold medal that goes with the world championship title and four of the five gold medals in the individual disciplines

and two silver medals went to contestants using STIHL chainsaws.

With 1,558 points, six points ahead of his nearest rival, John van Kampen with his STIHL 046 retained the world championship title he has held since 1996. This Dutch logging contractor went home with the gold medal that goes with the world championship title, another gold in precision felling and a silver in chain replacement. Stihl 046 76.5cc 5.6 Horsepower. Price from £590 ex.VAT.



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Ad Ref 230

## Flying visit!

Members at Easingwold Golf Club, not far from BIGGA Headquarters at Aldwark Manor, York, had an unexpected hazard to contend with recently when a glider touched down on their practice ground.

The pilot had been taking part in the Northern Gliding Championship and was returning home when a storm forced him into making an unscheduled stop on the nearest area of flat land.

Remarkably, after some of the golfers had signed papers to verify where the glider had landed it transpired that the pilot had travelled the furthest in his category and has won a prize.

When help arrived the glider took off again leaving only a 30 metre skid mark on the grass.

## Minimum wage information

The UK's first national minimum wage has been set at £3.60 per hour before deductions and will be introduced from April of next year.

The figure was agreed by Parliament following a study by the Low Pay Commission whose recommendations included

- Exemption from the NMW for 16-17 year-olds, and all those on formal apprenticeships.

- A development rate of £0.20 available for 18-20 year-olds and for workers starting a new job with a new employer and receiving accredited training.

- Earnings that may count towards the NMW include pay for standard working - including piece rates, commissions, and tips paid through the payroll - but exclude most benefits and premium payments.

The development rate will be phased in over two stages and will initially apply to all 21 year-olds as well as those aged 18-20. An initial rate of £3 will be introduced in April 1999 rising to £3.20 in June 2000.

The Low Pay Commission will review the position of 21 year-olds again in 1999 following implementation of the £3 rate and provide a further report on whether, in the light of experience, it reconfirms its advice that 21 year-olds could safely be covered by the main rate.

## Luck of the Irish for Sisis

Sisis has extending its Sisis Direct initiative to include Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. The SISIS Area Representative for Northern Ireland is Ian Mackay and for the Republic of Ireland Ewen Wilson, both of whom will be calling on customers old and new, very soon.

SISIS look forward to developing an even closer relationship with their Irish customers who will now be able to enjoy all the benefits of buying direct from the manufacturer.

# Going Stateside!

**GCSAA Conference and Show, Orlando, February 8-14, 1999**

GCSAA's 70th International Golf Course Conference and Show will be held in the Orange County Convention Centre, Orlando from 8th - 14th February 1999.

As in previous years BIGGA is offering you the opportunity to travel on the trip to Orlando. The BIGGA party will meet at Gatwick Airport on Sunday 7th February for departure to Orlando at 12.30 pm.

BIGGA will be able to arrange accommodation for any member wishing to stay overnight before the flight at competitive rates.

The Omni Rosen Hotel, chosen by BIGGA to accommodate our party, offers excellent facilities and is located on International Drive next to the Convention Centre.

The GCSAA Conference and Show takes place from February 8 - 14 with the trade show on February 12 - 14. You will be able to attend the conference seminars and education programmes as well as take in the latest golf course equipment, products and services at the trade show.

**Itinerary Sunday, February 7**

All members will assemble at Gatwick Airport and will take the 12.30 pm Virgin Atlantic flight to Orlando with onward transfer to the Omni Rosen Hotel for an eight-night stay on a room only basis inclusive of private facilities.

**Monday, February 15**

You will be transferred to the airport for your return overnight flight to London, departing Orlando at 19.10 pm arriving at London Gatwick at 8.15 am, on February 16.

**Prices**

£775 per person based on a twin share. £1188 per person based on single occupancy.

Plus comprehensive travel insurance for the duration at £30.

**Included are:**

Return Economy class flights London Gatwick/Orlando; UK and US taxes; Transfer to and from the airport to the Omni Rosen Hotel; Eight nights accommodation on a room only basis and US accommodation taxes.

Please note: Registration costs for the Pre-Conference seminars which run from February 8 - 11, the Education Programmes which run from 11 - 14 February and the Trade Show are not included in the package and bookings will need to be made directly with the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America. Details are available from BIGGA upon request.

Please forward full payment of £805 or £1218 (unless travel insurance is not required) to BIGGA, Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York, YO61 1UF to arrive no later than Friday 13th November; together with name, address and contact telephone number. If accommodation is required for the night of 6th February please advise in order for the hotel rooms to be booked. Payment will be made on checking out of the hotel.

N.B. Places are limited on this trip and demand will be high - book early!

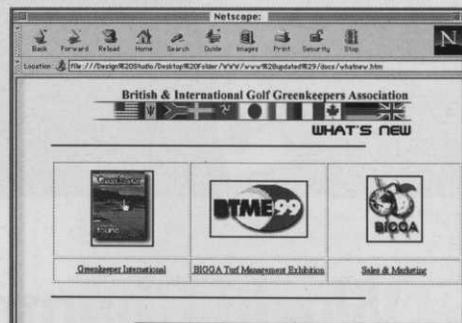
## wwwatching BIGGA on the web

**BIGGA's Website -**

<http://www.bigga.org.uk> - is currently listing information which is valuable and of interest to members.

- There is up to day information about all of BIGGA's Regional and National Training Courses and how to apply for them;
- Information about Membership benefits and how to join the Association if you are not yet a member;
- Magazine information including advertising rates
- What BIGGA currently offers by way of merchandise and prices
- Information about BTME 99.

The pages are updated every month



Mary	19.53	3.42	22.95	search
Shaw	19.53	3.42	22.95	search
Shaw (Older)	79.11	33.94	90.95	search
Victoria (Older)				
Mary	16.98	2.97	19.95	search
Tania	24.24	3.71	24.95	search
Wendy (Older)	46.81	8.19	55.00	search
Wendy (Newer)	25.51	4.47	30.00	search
Wendy (Older)	68.94	11.91	79.95	search
Tia	5.08	0.88	5.95	search
Cip	0.98	0.52	1.50	search
Shaw (Older)	18.17	1.76	11.95	search
Margaret (Older)	1.95	0.68	3.95	search
Margaret (Older)	3.38	0.80	3.50	search
Victoria				
OC Preparation 1 number	12.72	2.23	14.95	view1
OC Preparation 2 number	25.40	4.46	29.95	view2
OC Preparation 3 number	12.72	2.23	14.95	view3
OC Preparation 4 number	25.40	4.46	29.95	view4
OC Preparation 5 number	12.72	2.23	14.95	view5
OC Preparation 6 number	25.40	4.46	29.95	view6

## Spalding launches new brushcutter

Spalding has introduced a new 4-stroke technology to both the professional amenity management and agricultural markets.

The brushcutter features a state of the art, fuel efficient 31cc 4-stroke Honda engine which reduces both exhaust emissions and noise therefore improving operator comfort.

The engine crankshaft is carefully balanced to cut down vibration levels to a minimum increasing operator comfort and safety.

A larger 26mm diameter transmission shaft is fitted to cope with increased work loads and a larger 1 litre fuel tank is fitted to reduce the time needed for refuelling stops.

The brushcutter has all the standard features of the existing range such as electronic ignition, anti-vibration system, diaphragm carburettor system to ensure fuel reaches the engine in all working positions. Supplied with strimmer harness and interchangeable strimmer or brush



cutter heads, it can be ordered under product number 6823 and is priced at £423.00

For further information Tel: 01522 500600.

## Trojan trailer gallops ahead

The Trojan Trailer Greenkeepers' Caddy is a galvanised trailer which combines everything that is needed for carrying around the tools of the greenkeepers trade.

At 42 inches wide and 48 inches long the rubber lined low load body and tailgate allows nearly all pedestrian greens mowers with transport wheels each access and manoeuvrability. The load lock bar secures mowers from rolling about.

The bolt on tool carrier is designed to accommodate all matter of ground care equipment safely and in secure compartments. Strimmers, rakes, flags, hole cutters etc are housed in one com-



partment while the other provides room for a wheely bin.

For further information Tel: 01749 850349.

## Date set for South West and South Wales Regional Seminar

The South West and South Wales Regional Seminar to be held at Cannington College on Wednesday November 25 is year year being sponsored by Supaturf and Roffey.

The Seminar will be centred around Frank Newberry who will be talking and giving a workshop on "Making the Committee Work for You" Other speakers will include Ian McMillan, of Hankley Common, who will describe the work that went into winning both the Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping and the BIGGA

Environment Competition in association with Amazone and Rhone Poulenc; Regular Greenkeeper International contributor, Tony Rees, who will talk about Health and Safety and Risk Assessments and Dave Philips, of Mommersteeg, who will talk on Seed Selection and its Implications. Supaturf and Roffey's will also have speakers.

The cost of the day is £15 for members and £22 for non-members inclusive of lunch. Applications forms can be obtained from Paula Humphries.

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In motor racing, Britain's Nigel Mansell was always the ultimate perfectionist. Now, as the owner of Woodbury Park Golf and Country Club, he is applying the self-same principles...



# Doing it right



Life in the fast lane? Nigel Mansell takes time out at Woodbury Park

In motor racing, Britain's Nigel Mansell was always the ultimate perfectionist. Furthermore, with 31 Grand Prix victories to his credit, few will argue that he "got it right" more often than his fellow competitors. Now, as the owner of Woodbury Park Golf and Country Club, he applies the self-same principles; his byword on course maintenance being: 'If you are going to do it, do it right, or don't bother doing it!'

There's a learning experience in that statement alone, one which is especially applicable to the golf course manager, for where machinery is concerned he must ensure that he has the right mowing equipment; allowing himself a head start in the race for superiority in golf course grooming.

To draw further from the motor racing analogy, had Mansell in his championship years enjoyed the racing cars used today by Schumacher or Hakkinen, the likelihood is that he would have won not 31 Grands Prix, but surpassed Prost's all-time record of 51 victories, for the racing car has evolved; far more sophisticated now than its counterpart of a decade or so earlier, yet surprisingly robust and infinitely more reliable. The same applies to grass cutting machinery.

So, do it right or don't bother doing it. Let's not forget that the golf game has evolved a great deal, and from early days of hickory and rams horn we've moved into boron spun fibres and space-age titanium. With this evolution, course conditions also have improved dramatically, so much so that today's level of maintenance is routinely equal to that which once was to be found only on a few very select courses.

Where to start is where smart thinking comes into play, for selecting a mower should begin by posing several questions concerning your own course conditions, your members predilections and expectations, the type of terrain upon which you operate and the style of your greens, tees and fairways. In other words, assess the individual characteristics of your course and decide what you are trying to produce. If your members insist upon fast greens, only a mower that sits snugly upon the sward and glides effortlessly over the terrain will suffice, while if you're working with severe undulations, only light-weight machinery will meet your expectations and produce a smoother roll of the ball.

Machinery salesmen should be cultivated as a friend, indeed as your finest ally, for it is as much their responsibility to ensure that what you get is what you really want. Before assigning any order they should look thoroughly at all of your applications, knowing that if the mower doesn't deliver its promise they're unlikely to be around for a second chance.

Furthermore, a skilled salesman will look at the quality you've decided upon before applying his experience at selecting and demonstrating, weighing as carefully as you the challenge of finding a machine that, for instance, will cut wide areas of cultured turf yet still be efficient at grooming around the clubhouse, plus encircling trees and cutting banks without scalping.

Certainly a wide selection exists, with blade configurations and tournament bedknives, width of cut and thoughtful weight distribution now a matter of choice, while the



addition of turf-grooming fittings like verticutters, scientifically designed rollers, scraper rollers and guide wheels have all been introduced in recent years to make the grass cutter's task a more pleasurable one, and easier into the bargain.

Productivity has not been overlooked either, with many greenkeepers finding that wider cutting blades have not only increased their efficiency but produce a cleanness of cut that is unsurpassed. Trends in walk-behind machines have moved toward weight and weight distribution, the trend for slightly heavier machines meeting the demand for speedier and smoother greens without adding stress to the sward, while weight evenly distributed forward of the power unit removes any influence the operator might exert, while giving superior tracking. Fully

floating heads are another recent innovation, being easier to use and removing the weight variable of a fully loaded grass box.

Manoeuvrability in rough, trimming around immovable obstacles and long grass cutting is another factor that comes to the fore, thus the zero-turn machine has found an enthusiastic audience following the recent spell of unseasonably wet weather, which has tested the mettle of all grass cutters. As such galloping growth continues, those who put their trust in heavy-duty zero turn radius machines have had the last laugh.

Manufacturers today, acutely aware of labour costs and depreciation, are building many unseen and unsung benefits into their machinery which at first appear to be only a small part of the equation. If price is your main consideration, perhaps you should spare a



Woodbury Park boasts an impressive shedful of Ransomes equipment

moment to consider the inclusion today of many more sealed units, while preventative maintenance routines, the life blood of every working machine, have been made easier, in turn preventing premature failure, increasing the life of the unit and avoiding unnecessary down time. Operating comfort also is considered paramount, so noise levels are reduced by efficient dampening, controls fall more easily to hand, while access to engines and other components has become simplicity itself.

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Mr Roger Shaw, Course Manager, Ramside Hall Golf & Country Club, County Durham

"Our sole plates/bottom blades are now lasting between 2-3 times longer than when we were spin grinding".

Mr Philip Baldock, Head Greenkeeper, The Royal Portrush Golf Club, County Antrim, (now Course Manager, Ganton Golf Club, North Yorkshire)

"It is the best piece of machinery this course has ever invested in, a fine machine that I would recommend to anyone".

Mr John Bashford, Head Greenkeeper of the Green Hotel Golf Course, The Kinross Estate

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Mr Derek Green, Head Greenkeeper, Royal Liverpool Golf Club



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## Facts

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**Marcus Hamon was selected for BIGGA's Greenkeeping Support Team at The Open at Birkdale. It provided him with enough memories to last a lifetime.**

# A week to remember



## **8th May 1998**

The 8th of May arrives, along with my letter of acceptance. I am over the moon and can't quite believe this is happening. The 14th of July can't come quick enough.

## **Tuesday 14th July**

Eventually 14th of July arrives, the alarm goes off at 7.00am. I am set for a long day ahead. I have breakfast and set off for the Airport, my flight leaves at 10.20am - I'm now getting excited.

Arrive at Manchester Airport at 12noon and catch the 1.05pm train to Southport. Arrive at 2.30pm and find the hotel straight away at approximately 3pm. Check in and get unpacked. It starts to rain, but can't wait and I set off back to the

station for Hillside, the stop for Birkdale. Get to the Course at 4pm and start to savour the atmosphere - it's absolutely brilliant and it's only Tuesday. Have a good look around, a links course, not dissimilar to my own, at least my experience will be of benefit. Set off back to the hotel, get showered, changed and go down for dinner, meet some of the other guys who have arrived early.

## **Wednesday 15th July**

Back down to the Course it's official practice day and I follow Faldo, Els and young Justin Rose, it's only 13 months ago that Justin was playing my course at L'Ancrese in Guernsey in the Hampshire Championship. He looks a great talent for the future. (If only I had put that bet on!)

## **Wednesday Night**

Briefing at hotel where we were issued with all the gear, shirts, jackets and waterproofs. I volunteer for divotting in the evening - first chance to walk the course and I want to make the most of every minute. I was surprised that divotting included removal of all divots previously replaced and filling with a sand/soil/seed mixture to present the course and playing surface to best effect. As the fairways were cut in the evening if divots had dried out or the birds had turned them over before the morning the players could have been left with a poor lie.

## **Thursday 16th July**

Drawn a match at 10.35am Loren Roberts, Greg Chalmers and Santiago

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Luna. Loren Roberts is absolutely brilliant and talks all the way round while knocking it around in 66.

Coming off the 18th he gives me his glove - What a way to start.

#### Friday 17th July

Early start raking bunkers. We set off at 5.30am. The weather is terrible it is pouring down with rain, but spirits are high the thought of going out with Tom Lehman, Mark James and Ernie Els keep me going. The weather is expected to clear. The R&A started to get concerned about green flooding, but Chris Whittle, Head Greenkeeper, knows his Course and the preparation he has put in. He was right, the wetting agent and hollow tining worked, no squeegees were needed, although they were distributed to susceptible greens as a precaution.

Tee off times arrives, on the tee absolutely soaked through but forecast is still for an improvement. Halfway round the rain stops, the suns out and waterproofs are off - what a way to finish.

#### Saturday 18th July

I welcome the lie in. Bus leaves at 8am and my match isn't until 11am. Chance to do some shopping - must keep the wife happy. Arrive on the 1st tee and the atmosphere is electric - pity the golf isn't. Go out with American Mark Brooks and young Spanish Amateur Sergio Garcia. The wind spoils it. Very windy, never mind Sunday will be better.

Back at the hotel and hoping to get a match on Sunday - I am given match 37 at 2pm - someone in contention I can't believe it. I get showered and changed and pop into town for a few drinks, but must get back early to see the highlights and who match 37 might be.

Watching the highlights it becomes clear, it could be, Tiger Woods, I can't build my hopes up, will wait and see but will keep my fingers crossed.

Saturday night - can't sleep.

#### Sunday 19th July

Arrive at Course and check matches, can't believe it is Tiger Woods, just when I thought it couldn't get any better.

The morning drags, eventually 1.50pm arrives and I make my way to the 1st tee, still can't believe my luck.

2pm and off we go, Tiger, nine minders, three Policemen, dozens of cameramen, buggies and myself.

Tiger does not get off to a great start and three putts the 1st, but birdies the 2nd. The round goes on and is nothing special until we get to the 15th which he birdies. He is now only two shots behind. He pars 16, but chips in at 17 for birdie and also birdies the 18th. The atmosphere walking down the 18th with the World No.1 is electric and when he rolled the putt in it was deafening - it made the hairs on the back of my neck stand on end.

Tiger's caddie, Fluff, gave me the ball which I will treasure for the rest of my life.



Sat by the 18th and watched the few last matches and the play off come through. A perfect end to a brilliant week. The course had stood up well to the intensive play and ravages of both the weather and number of spectators all over the Course.

Sunday night after dinner and a couple of beers still can't get to sleep, head is still up in the clouds. Can't believe this has happened to me. Coming from a small Island like

Guernsey to Birkdale and The Open was a dream come true and to walk the fairways with the world's best golfers is something I will treasure for the rest of my life.

My thanks to everyone at BIGGA for an absolutely brilliant week.

Many thanks also go to my employer the States Works Department who are the contractors for maintaining the L'Ancrese Golf Course in Guernsey.

# Kawasaki

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**Ken Richardson gives details on competition progress and outlines a host of education opportunities available to greenkeepers...**

# ON WITH THE JUDGING...



**The BIGGA Golf Course Environment Competition in Association with Amazone Ground Care and Rhône Poulenc Amenity**

This Competition is progressing well with Bob Taylor from STRI and Dr Keith Duff from English Nature reaching the final stages of judging. The Regional Winners and the National Winner will be informed as soon as possible. His Royal Highness the Duke of York has agreed to open the Askham Bryan Golden Jubilee Conference on Golf and the Environment on Wednesday, October 21, 1998, and, in addition, His Royal Highness has kindly agreed to present the prizes for this Competition.



## **TORO Student of the Year Competition 1998**

After six very difficult days of judging, the TORO Student of the Year Judging Panel comprising Peter Mansfield, from Lely, Pat Murphy, Immediate Past Chairman and myself, with David Cole, from Lely, deputising for Pete in the South East Region, finally selected the eight National Finalists. We had to make some difficult decisions as all students nominated for the Competition have been selected, from a large number of college students and the Standards were extremely high.

This not only makes them all win-

ners, but it also makes the final selection even more difficult. The National Finalists are; Gary Gruber and Stephen Myers, both representing Elmwood College; Richard Atkin, representing Myerscough College; Mark Allen and Sally Doherty, both representing Warwickshire College; Paul Shelley, representing Oaklands College; Jeff Mills, representing Cannington College, and Nicholas Webber representing Greenmount College.

Congratulations to all eight National Finalists and commiserations to all those not selected.

The National Finals will take place at Aldwark Manor on Monday October 26.



## **TORO Excellence in Greenkeeping Competition**

Following a meeting of the judges, in York, six finalists were selected for the National Final which will take place on Monday 26 October, alongside the Student of the Year Competition. The six judges, Jimmy Nielsen, Barry Heaney, Bill Lawson, Paddy McCarron, Eric James and Gordon Child had a very difficult job selecting six finalists as the standards, this year, were extremely high. The six finalists are John Quinn, from Elmwood College Golf Course; Andy Campbell, from Carden Park Golf Resort, Hotel and Spa; John Coleman, from Abbeydale Golf Club; Peter Wisbey, from the National Golf Centre, Woodhall Spa; Allan McDougall, from Royal Mid Surrey Golf Club, and Richard Whyman, from Bude and North Cornwall Golf Club.

Congratulations to all six candidates and thank you to all those who took part or nominated candidates, helping to make the Competition a success.

# TOP OF THE CLASS?

## **The Learning Experience sponsored by Textron Turfcare and Speciality Products**

Following BTME 1998, Ransomes became part of the Textron Company and sponsorship of the Learning Experience is now provided by Textron Turfcare and Speciality Products. Thanks to Textron's generosity, the Learning Experience 1999 will provide an incredible range of training for every category of greenkeeper, at the National Education Conference, Workshops and BTME Seminars, at a very low price. Watch out for full details appearing in the October Edition of Greenkeeper International.

## **Aldwark Manor and Local Training Courses**

Applications for both Local and Aldwark Manor Courses are arriving at HQ at a steady rate. However, some courses do not have any delegates registered and the deadline for deciding if and when to cancel courses is fast approaching. Send your application to HQ today. Courses with insufficient delegates are:

**Golf Course Design in Northern Ireland, Plymouth and Swansea.**

**Project Management in Northampton.**

**Pesticide Management in Falkirk.**

**Interviewing Skills in Falkirk.**

**Report Writing at Aldwark Manor, Maidstone and Hemel Hempstead.**

**Employment Contracts at Taunton.**

**Health and Safety at Taunton, Nottingham, Bournemouth and Aldwark Manor.**

That was the bad news.

The good news is that we have had a such a demand for the Essential Management Skills Course at Chester on 3 and 4 December 1998, that we have arranged another course at the same hotel on 1 and 2 December 1998. Additionally, the Irrigation Workshop, at Walsall is now full. An Irrigation Workshop will, however, be held as part of the Learning Experience, at Harrogate in January 1999.

Please note that the date given in the August edition of Greenkeeper International for the Chester Essential Management Skills Course was incorrect.

As outlined above, these courses will take place on 1-2 and 3-4 December 1998. Additionally, the date for the

Golf Course Design Construction and Establishment at Newcastle, Co Down will take place on 24-25 November, and not as previously stated in the magazine.

## **Managing Effectively**

This two-day course enables delegates to understand and practise the basics of managing their staff. Subjects include; management style, team building, communications and motivation.

**Cost £570 + VAT including lunch on both days.**

No, this is not a BIGGA course but a nationally advertised course available this Autumn. However, BIGGA does run a course that covers similar topics and includes accommodation, for a mere £30 + VAT. Moreover, BIGGA offers a wide range of courses designed to meet the needs of all greenkeepers, all at low prices. This does not mean that we reduce the quality of training, we subsidise the costs of local courses from the BIGGA Education and Development Fund to make the Courses as widely available as possible. As I wrote in last month's magazine, use them or lose them.

## **Vocational Qualifications**

New vocational qualifications for golf greenkeepers were introduced in September 1997.

This meant that the old qualifications i.e. the Level 2 NVQ in Amenity Horticulture (Greenkeeping) award number 0326-02 and the Level 3 NVQ in Amenity Horticulture (Sportsturf) award number 0326-03, would be phased out. City and Guilds have stated that the last date of certification for the old Level 2 award will be 31 May 1999 and that the last date of certification for the old Level 3 award will be 31 May 2000.

For candidates in Scotland, the Scottish Qualifications Authority have stated that the last date of certification for the old Level 2 award will be 30 October 1999 and that the last date of certification for the old Level 3 award will be 30 October 2000. Therefore any candidate registered on the old awards should ensure that they provide evidence of competence for all units of the awards before the cut off dates. The new qualifications are not affected by this ruling. Further information may be obtained from BIGGA HQ, or, from the Greenkeepers Training Committee.