TORO MATCH-UP

The benefits of the Toro Student of the Year Award have long been known to those people who have been lucky enough to have become involved at any stage of the competition but for the 2001 winner, Andrew Pledger, they have been greater than most.

Andrew won his Award in the final year that the competition was run alongside the Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping, and his fellow victor was Huw Morgan MG, Course Manager at Wildernesse Golf Club in Kent. It was the first time that the two men had met and their friendship grew over the following months and in particular during the time when both were in the States - Andrew as part of his Scholarship Award at the University of Massachusetts and Huw during his winner’s trip to the GCSAA Conference and Show in Orlando.

During this Huw had been looking at his own staffing issues and felt that Andrew was just the sort of person he’d love to have as his Deputy. So on the taxi journey back to Orlando International Airport he offered the job to Andrew, who, at the time was number three at The Hertfordshire Golf Club.

“He was a bit taken aback to be asked but two or three weeks later he accepted and started as joint Deputy Course Manager with Grant Elliott, the following January,” explained Huw.

“It has been a great move. Grant is excellent at construction work and Andrew, who has customer care experience from his time as a Sainsbury Manager is great at talking to members in the clubhouse, while his attention to detail out on the golf course is superb,” explained Huw.

“I can’t thank Toro enough. Not only did we get a great deal out of winning the competitions but they acted as matchmaker too. We would never have met if it hadn’t been for Toro.”

WELL DONE NEIL!

What do Paul Lawrie and Neil Woolfrey, Course Manager at Great Lever & Farnworth GC, have in common?

Well, they are both Carnoustie Champions. Paul, as we all remember, won an amazing Open Championship over the famous old links in 1999 and earned himself a place on Greenkeeper International’s front cover as a result. Neil has just won the Carnoustie Amateur Championship, or as it is better known The Craw’s Nest Tassie.

The event attracts players from all over the world and this year had a field of 365.

Neil, a 2 handicapper at Brightmet GC, in Bolton, had to survive two rounds of qualifying. One over the Championship course and another over the Burnside course, before going into the 64 man knockout stage, all played over what is widely regarded as the toughest course in golf.

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“During the matchplay stages I beat two past champions from the Carnoustie Club and in the final beat a player off +2 handicap, by two holes. Ironically he was also from Bolton and I was the first ever winner to come from the North West.
PRACTICAL GREENKEEPING

Second edition
By Jim Arthur B.Sc. (Agric.)
Published by The Royal & Ancient
Golf Club of St Andrews 2003-08-18
ISBN 0 907583 12 1

The first edition of Practical Greenkeeping was produced in 1997 to fill a huge void in practical knowledge in a format that could be easily understood at all levels. Jim Arthur’s experience, advising more than 550 golf clubs in Britain and Europe and acting as consultant agronomist to the Championship Committee of the R&A, made him the ideal man for the job.

His no-nonsense, down-to-earth approach conveys his message loudly and clearly. Golf courses can flourish by following traditional methods that are the most effective, both in terms of condition and cost.

The second edition of this essential book contains much new material in the form of appendices to chapters, bringing the debate right down to earth approach of the R&A, made him the ideal man for the job.

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**SGM OPEN WEEK**

'Groundcare and the Environment' was the theme of a special Open Week staged recently by Scottish Grass Machinery at its Inverkeithing Headquarters in Fife.

Over 300 hundred groundcare professionals from local authorities, golf clubs, sports stadia and the landscape industry attended the event held over three days in August.

They were treated to a series of presentations centred around the increasing influence of environmental issues on the groundcare business. Expert speakers included Steve Chicken, Alan Prickett and Richard Tyrrell, all from Ransomes Jacobsen Ltd, Barry Ohrman, Calor Gas Ltd; Jim Maloney, Envirosafe; Jimmy Kidd, The Gleneagles Hotel and John Caven, Meldrum House Golf Club.

Many of the latest models of environmentally friendly equipment were also previewed by Scottish Grass Machinery at its purpose built demonstration facility. These included Ransomes 2130 LPG and Jacobsen E-PLEX.

The Open Week also offered the opportunity for Scottish Grass Machinery to introduce its customers to its brand new £250,000 workshop facility which has doubled workshop space at the Inverkeithing HQ to 20,000 sq ft.

During the Open Week, Scottish Grass Machinery underlined its credentials as a successful family business when the new workshop facility was declared open by Kerr McInroy, the three year old grandson of business founder, David McInroy and son of managing director, Steven McInroy.

Commenting on the Open Week, Steven McInroy, managing director, Scottish Grass Machinery said, "The Open Week has become a regular fixture in our calendar because it provides an excellent opportunity to gather together many of the industry's top players in Scotland, to discuss the latest trends and to look at the latest equipment coming on to the market. As with many other industries, environmental issues are moving rapidly towards the top of the agenda in groundcare and it therefore seemed a natural choice as the theme for this Open Week."

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**GREENKEEPING MASTERCLASS DECEMBER 3 & 4**

Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers will be heading for Woodhall Spa in December for the next event in the highly successful series of Greenkeeping Masterclasses. The Masterclass is a technical conference which aims to keep Course Managers and Head Greenkeepers right up-to-date with specific agronomic and environmental theory and practice as well as the wider picture in relation to these subjects.

Provisional Subjects and Speakers for December:

- European Perspective on Pesticide Regulations, Steve Isaac, Secretary to the R&A Golf Course Committee; Update on Biologicals, Stella Rixon, STRI; Grasses for Golf, Dr Andy Newell, STRI; Waste Water Re-cycling, Tim Early, Waste2Water;
- Agronomy, Andy Cole, PSD Agronomy;
- Management & Communications, Kerran Daly MG, Gog Magog and Duncan McGilvray, Potters Bar.

Booking forms will be sent out in early October and further information will also appear at www.englishgolfunion.org./roadshows

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**ONE DAY GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT SEMINARS**

A series of one-day golf course management seminars organised by the EGU's Golf Services and County Unions are scheduled for this autumn. The seminars will cover a wide range of topics for Course Managers, Greenkeepers, Secretaries, Managers, Owners and Chair of Green.

The programmes will be delivered by expert speakers and include on-course agronomy and ecology discussions, machinery demonstrations, finance, climate change and course design and alteration.

**VENUES AND DATES:**
- 15 Oct - The Wiltshire
- 16 Oct - Twavstock Golf Club, Devon
- 22 Oct - Chelmsford Golf Club, Essex
- 23 Oct - Gog Magog Golf Club, Cambs
- 4 Nov - The Oaks Golf Club, Yorks

Booking forms were sent to Golf Clubs in early September and further details of the programmes and speakers will be available on our website at: www.englishgolfunion.org./roadshows

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**SOUTH WEST AND SOUTH WALES REGIONAL SEMINAR**

November 19 & 20

Speakers will include David Garland of the European Tour, The National Chairman, George Brown, Kerran Daly, the inimitable Frank Newberry and English Amateur Champion Richard Finch.

Programmes were sent out in September. Please contact your section secretary if you have not received one. Enquiries telephone Paula Humphries on: 01288 341418.

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**BIOSEED BOWL TROPHY 2003**

The final of the Bioseed Bowl was recently played at the superb Foxhills Golf and Country Club in Ottershaw, Surrey.

The final was a keenly contested affair which was won by 2 holes, by Steven Weir and Scott McMurray (Wentworth) over Roger Tydeman and Kevin Humphreys (Croham Hurst).

A meal was followed by the prize presentation. The winners receiving free entry to the BIGGA National Championship as well as £100 spending money. The runners up each received an £80 golf gift voucher.

Kind thanks go to David Smart of Bioseed for generously sponsoring the event.

Picture above Left to Right: Weir and McMurray, winners; David Smart, Bioseed; Anthony Freeman, Surrey Chairman, Tydeman and Humphreys, runners up.