The year's winner of the Toro Student of the Year - Mike Emptage - is who is set for an unbelievable period in his life, meeting fellow greenkeepers students from around the world, as he enrolls on an intensive university programme. Mike will also get the chance to visit the Toro factory and attend the GCSA Show.

Our thanks to Toro who have sponsored the Student Greenkeeper of the Year award for 18 years, giving so many students the chance to better themselves.

As mentioned earlier in my article, the Continue to Learn educational programme is now available. As most of you are aware, the programme is run in conjunction with the BTME trade show, with exhibitors covering the full range of equipment, chemicals and materials required for all sports surfaces. Many of you will be aware that the revenue from the show is a large part of the Association’s income, with profits being ploughed back into benefits to you, the members, mainly in the form of a first come first served basis, hopefully each Section around the country will be planning something on those lines. On the left of my column you will find all the companies who have already signed up for BTME. You can click online to Harrogate week and view their websites for more information.

Time to stand up and be counted

Chairman’s Column

As you look through the Harrogate Week educational programme that is included in this issue, you will find many educational opportunities available to you at very competitive prices. It is up to you to make your employers aware of the savings they can make by just being a member of BIGGA.

My congratulations go to this year’s winner of the Toro Student of the Year - Mike Emptage - who is set for an unbelievable period in his life, meeting fellow greenkeepers students from around the world, as he enrolls on an intensive university programme. Mike will also get the chance to visit the Toro factory and attend the GCSAA show.

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Champion of BIGGA

My Champion of BIGGA this month is Ian Willett, Course Manager at Thorpeness GC in Suffolk and currently the East Anglia Section Secretary. Earlier this year Ian received the unsung heroes award in recognition for the enthusiastic help he offers our profession, Ian is very keen on education and successfully administers a number of educational events within his Section.