

STMA Recognizes Groundsmen of The Year

A delegation of approximately 25 officers and members of the Institute of Groundsmanship came to the GCSAA and STMA meetings in Houston, Texas. The IOG is headquartered in London, England and is similar to STMA in its missions and goals of educating individuals employed in all phases of groundsmanship.

Each year through written examinations, practical applications and other evaluations, the IOG selects the top two groundsmen and the award for being the best is an all-expenses paid trip to the GCSAA conference in the United

States. In recognition for their achievement and dedication to the sports turf profession, the STMA presented the two top groundsmen plaques for their accomplishments. STMA President, Mark Hodnick, the Executive Director, Dr. Kent Kurtz, presented the awards during the STMA educational session in Houston.



l to r: Laurence Pithie, Huw Morgan, Kent Kurtz, Mark Hodnick.

Young Groundsman of the Year Award

The Young Groundsman of the Year is 21 year old Huw Morgan who is the Head Greenskeeper at the Fairwood Park Golf Club near Swansea. Huw has been responsible for the maintenance of this 147 acre parkland course for the past two years. He is a member of the South Wales branch of the IOG and the British and International Golf Greenskeepers Association.

Master Groundsman of the Year

The Master Groundsman of the Year is an astute, bright, knowledgeable and very personable gentleman, Laurence Pithie. Laurence is the Golf Course Manager at the Minchinhampton Golf Club near Stroud. Since 1981 he has managed two golf courses — a new course built in the 1970's which he recently was responsible for reconstructing; the other, located on National Trust land, is a real challenge because modern sprays and chemicals are prohibited. Laurence is a member of the Gloucester branch of the IOG and the British and International Golf Greenskeeper Association.

Beam Clay Baseball Diamond Of The Year Awards

Out of a field of approximately 40 entries for the Beam Clay Baseball Diamond of the Year Awards, three baseball fields were selected by a judging committee chaired by James Long, Superintendent of Grounds for Holy Cross College. The awards were as follows:

Professional Category

Tom Burns, Field Superintendent, Charlotte County Stadium, Port Charlotte, Florida

College & University Category

Leo Goertz, Head Groundskeeper, Olsen Field, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas



Tom Burns, Bonnie Kelsey, Jim Kelsey

All three recipients were on hand in Houston, Texas at the STMA meeting to receive their awards from James Kelsey, President of the Beam Clay Company. The awards are sponsored annually by the Beam Clay Company, sportsTURF Magazine and the Sports Turf Manager's Association. The three recipients are all members of STMA. Congratulations, gentlemen, to a job well done. Keep up the good work!



Leo Goertz, Bonnie Kelsey, Jim Kelsey

Municipal Category

Jeffrey Bowman, Park Superintendent, Orval Ricketts Park, Farmington, New Mexico



Jim Kelsey, Mark Hodnick, Jeffrey S. Bowman