

'The future of our great profession is within the grasp of all these young men with a mission...'

•TORO/PGA EUROPEAN TOUR•

Student
**GREENKEEPER
OF THE
YEAR**

Stars of tomorrow

Elmwood College, in Scotland's golfing heartland of Fife, is noted for excellence both as a place of learning and in producing greenkeeping professionals, men who then go forward to the giddy heights of management at top sporting venues. A classic example may be seen within the PGA European Tour itself, with their Director of Agronomy, Bruce Jamieson, an outstanding Elmwood 'old boy'.

Now the college can lay claim to yet another rising star, 23 year old Brian Story, who is the newly acclaimed Toro/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year.

From a top class field of 13 selected students – hand picked as representing the very best by their respective Approved Training College tutors – Brian is the man chosen amongst his peers to represent BIGGA during the coming year, the award being a breathtaking tour of campaign that will leave him in no uncertain mind as to the wisdom of choosing greenkeeping as a career.

Consider these glittering prizes: six weeks at the Winter School for Turf Grass Managers held at the University of Massachusetts, a week at the Toro Irrigation and Technical Design Complex at Riverside; California, a further visit to the Toro Mower Division Headquarters at Minneapolis, together with practical tours of local golf and country clubs. Brian's learning curve on the American side of the Atlantic will finally end with a week-long visit to the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America Conference and Trade Fair in the hugely exciting city of New Orleans.

If all this isn't enough to make Brian's mind whirl, consider also the meteoric rise he has made in just a few short years at Silloth on Solway, his home course. Having made the decision to progress to the top via the education route, Brian achieved all his Greenkeeping Management learning modules with comparative ease and moved forward to take further Supervisory modules through Elmwood's highly praised Distant Learning Course.

Impressive noises in the lecture room (Brian's a regular award winner at Elmwood prize presentations) suggested equally impressive noises in the Club committee room and on the strength of his rapid learning curve, coupled with solid practical experience over several years, Brian has most recently been promoted to Working Course Manager at Silloth on Solway GC. That Silloth is a highly progressive Club with an equally progressive course manager is further endorsed by the Club's wise decision to disband their green committee in favour of a one to one discourse between Brian and the green chairman/convenor – all highly creditable.

Now Brian, a practical golf-playing greenkeeper with a touch of genius around the course, (handicap two and a 'capped' Cumbrian County player) is set on achieving Master Greenkeeper status and will attend management courses at BIGGA headquarters at every given opportunity, this in his quest for additional credits to add to his already impressive 159 total.



Though the Toro company are principal sponsors of this prestigious award, for the past two years they have been joined by the PGA European Tour, who as co-sponsors have lent substance to the winning circle by taking two runners-up as part of their own support team to selected professional tournaments. This year the lucky twosome were Scotland's Alan Morgan (nominated by Oatridge College) and Leeds' own John Waite (nominated by Askham Bryan College), and these fortunate students will soon be receiving a call to arms from the Tour's Director of Agronomy, Bruce Jamieson. What Alan and John can anticipate is two of the most exciting weeks of their lives, working whilst learning at the sharp end of the most exhilarating sector of professional golf – The European Tour – with added opportunities to meet golf's par busting super-stars. It will be a learning experience they will never forget.

In speaking to the assembled finalists, Peter Roberts, General Manager, Toro Irrigation UK Ltd, suggested that the future of our great profession was within the grasp of all those young men with a mission – the education seekers – and that they were the stars of tomorrow. Summarising in his speech, Michael Williams, Golf Correspondent of The Daily Telegraph, opined that all greenkeepers should play golf and that golf clubs would be wise to encourage such activity. Finally he drew sound applause by stating that in the Toro/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of The Year awards there were no losers – everyone being a winner by just taking part.

Prize guys:
**Toro/PGA European
Tour Student
Greenkeeper of the
Year Brian Story,
centre, flanked by
runners-up John
Waite, left and Alan
Morgan**