

A potential cast of thousands

It seems that at this time of the year the spotlight tends to fall on one particular part of the country.

Last year it shone on one little corner of Surrey with Hankley Common clinching the BIGGA Golf Course Environment Competition, in association with Amazone Ground Care and Rhone Poulenc Amenity, and Hankley's Course Manager, Ian McMillan, collecting the Toro Excellence In Greenkeeping Award. Quite a remarkable double.

Well, this year there was another double. Not by the same golf club but by the same city. Lindrick, while not exactly in Sheffield does possess strong Steel City connections, won the Environment Competition and Abbeydale, in the south of Sheffield, is the home club of new Toro Excellence Award winner, John Coleman.

A Full Monty of BIGGA's premier awards, you might say. How lucky we are to have such fine winners and it reflects well on the development of both competitions that by general consent the quality of finalists in both was the highest ever.

Lindrick has long set the benchmarks for quality, and sustained, environment work and to have Lindrick's name on the cup is a boost to not only the club, but the competition as well.

John Coleman is a rising star in the profession. He's educated, articulate, determined and ambitious and is keen to promote the industry wherever and whenever possible.

He feels, and there is merit in his thinking, that for too many people greenkeeping is not top of the list when it comes to thinking about a career. People fall into the job, discover what great opportunities it offers, and go on from there. They don't tend to do what John did himself, and start straight from school.

He reaps the benefits from that because, at the age of 28, he is the finished article and the education he's about to start is to add to his considerable knowledge and not to fill gaps.

Congratulations also to Sally Doherty on winning the Toro Student of the Year Award. Another fine Champion, Sally is a university graduate and has quickly risen to the position of First Assistant on the famous Brabazon Course at The Belfry. Another excellent example of the quality of young people in the industry.

* This month I suffered a disaster which could only happen in this, the modern age. While in the 80s it may have been like losing a Filofax; in the 90s it is losing a hard disc on a computer. This I managed on the computer which contains all my magazine work as well as all correspondence... just as the deadline for this magazine loomed!

However, out of adversity comes inspiration. Not to say perspiration, and we piloted the issue home. On three wheels you might say.

However, if you expected to see something promised in this issue and it's not include, or I've not answered a letter please show a little understanding.

It just remains for me, on behalf of everyone at BIGGA HOUSE to wish you a Merry Christmas and a sensational New Year.



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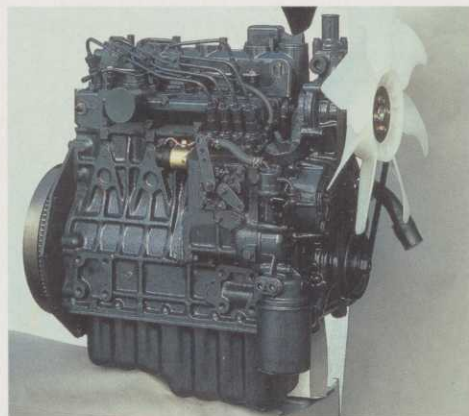
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Lindrick, CC. Photo by Eric Hayward. Tel: 01162 520974



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