

ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER ASSISTANT GREENKEEPER

Profile

Usually the spotlight falls on the Course Manager or Head Greenkeeper at a Club.

Now it is the turn of those whose work often goes unheralded to star.



Name: Andy Wilson

Club: Camoustie Golf Links

Position: Assistant Greenkeeper

Age: 34

1. How long have you been a greenkeeper?
18 years.

2. What education are you currently undertaking?
None

3. Which one task do you most enjoy doing?
Cutting Greens

4. Which one task do you most dislike doing?
Verti-draining

5. What job other than greenkeeping might you have ended up doing?
None

6. Who has been the biggest influence on your career?
John Philp, with his enthusiasm for improving greenkeeper standards

7. What would you do to improve the life of a greenkeeper?
Administer laws forbidding members from criticising the greenkeeper

8. What are your hobbies?
Football, golf and most other sports

9. What do you get out of BIGGA?
Meeting people and exchanging ideas

10. What do you hope to be doing in 10 years time?
Sitting on a warm beach spending my lottery winnings!

UPDATE UPDATE UPDATE UPDATE UPDATE UPDATE UPDATE UPDATE UPDATE UPDATE

Education

This month, Ken Richardson gives details on how you could win £5,000, a trip to Orlando and a Toro Greensmaster

The winning way

Although we are still dealing with queries about this year's Learning Experience, which, thanks to Ransomes, gets better each year, we are planning the Learning Experience 1999. Some speakers have come forward already and I will be writing to others shortly, however, if there is a subject that you would like to see presented/discussed or a particular speaker that you would like to hear or if you would like to speak yourself, then please contact me as soon as possible. This month also sees planning commence for the 1998/99 series of Regional Courses and the 1998 Aldwark Manor Courses. Details will appear soon but if you have ideas on subjects and/or speakers that you would like to see presenting courses in the Regions then, again, contact me as soon as possible.



The BIGGA Golf Course Ecology Award

Following last year's successful competition, won by Hankley Common Golf Club, Amazone Ground Care and Rhône-Poulenc Amenity are joining us again to run the BIGGA Golf Course Ecology Competition. This competition is designed to reward those clubs that integrate ecological management with normal golf course management practices to ensure that golf and the environment are compatible. Full details have been sent to all golf clubs and head greenkeepers, however if you have not received your copy then contact BIGGA HQ and we will send out full details by return of post. Entries must be returned to BIGGA by 1 May 1998. Why not enter and your club could win the first prize of £5000. All clubs visited by the judges will be offered the chance to

purchase a copy of the detailed report on their course, which will also include an action plan.

The TORO Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping

With prizes like a TORO Greensmaster triplex ride on mower, a two week trip to the USA, prizes for the winners greenkeeping team and for the runners up, this competition proved to be popular with both greenkeepers and their golf clubs in 1997, especially, Ian McMillan, from Hankley Common, last year's winner. Nomination forms have been sent out to golf clubs and Head Greenkeepers but if you need a copy then contact BIGGA HQ. Get your nominations off as soon as possible and we will send out entry forms to all nominees. All entry forms must be returned to BIGGA HQ by 29 May 1998. The National Final will take place, in Harrogate, on 25 and 26 October. Please note that Master Greenkeepers and winners of the ICI/Zeneca/Miracle Premier Greenkeeper Competition are now eligible to enter.



The TORO Student of the Year Competition

Now in its ninth year, the search to find the TORO Student of the Year has begun. Competition details and entry forms have been sent to colleges and training providers and all entries should reach BIGGA HQ by 29 May 1998. The main points of the competition are:

1. The winner receives the TORO scholarship to the USA and visits the TORO factories and the GCSAA conference and show in Orlando, Florida.

2. The winner's greenkeeping lecturer wins a visit to the GCSAA conference and show in Orlando, Florida.

3. The two runners-up win an all expenses paid visit to the 1999 Learning Experience, at Harrogate.

4. Regional finals will be held in six locations during late July and, up to eight students will be selected for the National Final which will take place on 25 and 26 October 1998.

National Education Conference and Seminar Programmes

Videos and written transcriptions for the Learning Experiences 1998 are still available. Contact Sami at BIGGA HQ for more details or to ask for an order form.

Refund of education/training fees

Applications for a refund of education and/or training fees are beginning to arrive at BIGGA HQ. However, funds are still available for those wishing to claim a refund. To be eligible for a refund, you must meet the following criteria:

a. You must be a member of BIGGA and have been a member for at least two years.

b. You must have paid your own fees and be able to provide proof of payment eg. receipt/credit card slip or statement.

c. You must have completed a course or component part of a course and be able to provide evidence of completion eg. certificate/end of course report etc.

d. If you are starting a course in 1998, you may apply for a refund to be paid on course completion as in c.

e. The Course must not be subsidised, already, by BIGGA.

f. The Course must be relevant to your job as a greenkeeper.

Members will be able to claim 80% of fees paid up to a maximum of £200. Contact BIGGA HQ for an application form.