

Please address your letters to **Scott MacCallum, Editor, Greenkeeper International, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Aine, York YO61 1UF.** You can also fax them to **01347 833801** or email them to **scott@bigga.co.uk**

Favourable feedback from finalists



Congratulations on the 1999 BIGGA Golf Environment Competition, sponsored by Amazon and Grass Roots - an event well organised and well run - unlike my train from Scotland which was so late I missed some of the speeches.

Well done to Temple GC on winning the national award. The judges had a difficult task in selecting an outright winner and my original thoughts were - do we need a national winner? - but having played Temple it was easy to justify their selection. Please pass on my heart felt thanks to them.

Ronnie Bunting, Head Greenkeeper, Kilmacolm GC

I would like to express my appreciation to yourself, Jim Paton and everyone at BIGGA for the warmest hospitality we received while visiting for the Toro competition. My wife Dawn and I enjoyed the visit enormously, and, given the circumstances of the visit, we managed to relax in the beautiful hotel and its surroundings.

The feedback I have received at the golf course since my return has been

overwhelming, from the local golfers and from my colleagues, and I would like to take this opportunity to say that I intend to represent both Toro and BIGGA to the very best of my ability in the coming year.

I look forward to hearing from you in the near future, and a warm welcome awaits you at Bowring Park.

Tommy Givnan, Head Greenkeeper, Bowring Park

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, all the staff at BIGGA and the people connected with the sponsors Toro for everything that made the occasion at Aldwark Manor a memorable one. A big thank you must also go to all the hotel staff who made sure our stay was enjoyable and relaxed.

The camaraderie and friendship from all the finalists involved in the awards proved, if proof was needed, that BIGGA is an association that all greenkeepers must be associated with. The help and back up that you provide is second to none, with facilities at the new BIGGA HOUSE to

be envied. As you know, I had not been involved with BIGGA for a few years, but I can tell you that my membership will be renewed every year from now on, without fail.

It is a great shame that I will not be able to take part in the student awards again, as it was some adventure, but I do so hope to be able one day to follow in the footsteps of all the finalists in the Excellence in Greenkeeping and once again experience these awards.

Many thanks to everyone.

Andrew Wood, Brighton, East Sussex

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and all involved at BIGGA and Toro for the excellent hospitality and organisation which was apparent during my stay.

I am very proud to have been a finalist in this event and found the whole experience at Aldwark very educational and enjoyable.

Matt Maryon, Course Manager Yeovil GC

I'm writing to thank all the people involved with the Toro Excellence in Greenkeeping Award, especially the judges of the competition, Ken and Sami of BIGGA, also Toro for their sponsorship.

Also thanks for the hospitality at Aldwark Manor during which time I made some new friends.

Steven Hogg, Head Greenkeeper Fortrose & Rosemarkie GC

G'day John

We have just got our computer unpacked although we've been in Australia since March.

I got a job at the Australian Golf Club in the centre of Sydney and then landed on my feet by getting a job at Terrey Hills Golf and Country Club just 10 minutes up the road. I am learning all about Creeping Bent greens and Couch tees and fairways. It is a fantastic layout with bags of potential cared for by a crew of 16.

I've also joined a golf club, Long Reef GC and I still enjoy Greenkeeper International - keep up the good work.

John Berry, Formerly Penrith GC Course Manager, Now Sydney Australia

Letter from America

I just joined BIGGA this year and have enjoyed reading the Greenkeeper International magazine, especially the "Talking Heads" and Sandy McDivot.

My wife and I plan to visit England and Scotland this coming February. I would very much like to visit some golf courses that might be open that time of year, particularly if they were a "traditional" course where more "old-fashioned" maintenance practices might be found. I would also like to find some golf clubs with more traditional approaches to the game of golf.

Here in the USA it seems even course is competing for the greenest turf, the fastest greens and even

faster golf carts. I know there is more to the game of golf than that, or at least I hope there is.

Perhaps you could suggest some courses or areas of the country I might visit. Thank you for your help.

Jim Hillier, GC Superintendent Pine Grove Springs CC, New Hampshire, USA

Jim, British clubs don't close down in winter but courses do close if weather is particularly bad. Any BIGGA members who'd like to invite you to look at his course should contact BIGGA HOUSE and we'll pass on the messages. Enjoy your visit... and I hope the weather is kind!