

Environment competition aims for ecological excellence

The 1999 BIGGA Golf Environment Competition, won in 1998 by Lindrick Golf Club, has a new co-sponsor unveiled at a press conference during the show. Amazone Ground Care will continue as a co-sponsor which was started by Amazone Managing Director, Rod Baker, in the mid 90s but will be joined this year by The Grass Roots Trading Company who replace Rhône-Poulenc Amenity who co-sponsored the event for the last two years. "Since its inception the Golf Environment Competition has really caught the imagination of the country's golf clubs and the

quality of entry has risen steadily. This is particularly gratifying because it is a measure of the increasing importance golf clubs are placing on environmental and ecological issues," said BIGGA Chairman, Gordon Child.

"I would like to pay tribute to Rod Baker, of Amazone, for his undoubted commitment to the cause of golf environmental matters and to Rhône Poulenc who supported the competition in '97 and '98. I would also like to welcome Jamie Bennett, and the Grass Roots Trading Company, for joining as a co-sponsor and feel confident that the BIGGA



GRASS ROOTS
— TRADING COMPANY —

Golf Environment Competition, in association with Amazone Ground Care and the Grass Roots Trading Company, will go from strength to strength," said Gordon. Rod Baker instigated the Amazone Golf Environment Competition in 1995 and has been a driving force behind the co-sponsored event since it began in '97. "I'm delighted with the success of the competition which was highlighted when the winning golf clubs received their awards from HRH The Duke of York at a presentation last year. It was a proud moment for me and a fitting tribute to the golf clubs who do such a great deal to preserve and maintain their environment," said Rod. Jamie Bennett is delighted that his company has the opportunity to put something back into the game of golf. "We jumped at the opportunity to become a co-sponsor because, as a company which is well aware of the environmental responsibilities of golf, we feel the this competition plays a major role in highlighting the excellent work undertaken by golf clubs," said Jamie. As in previous years the competition will be judged by STRI Ecology Officer, Bob Taylor, and English Nature.

Competition launched for architecture students

The importance of the role played by golf course architects in the creation and maintenance of quality courses round the world is being recognised in a new national award scheme.

The British Institute of Golf Course Architects (BIGGA) and worldwide turf machinery and irrigation products manufacturer The Toro Company, have teamed up to produce 'The Toro Student Golf Course Architect Award'. Announcing the new initiative at BTME, BIGGA's President Howard Swan said that the award would be competed for by students studying on a two-year post-graduate diploma course in golf course architecture at Merrist Wood College.

He said that the course, set up by BIGGA, is unique in the world and produced its first graduates last April. It is an international course, with five students in the current intake coming from the USA, Japan, Germany and Scandinavia. New international students joining in February will come from as far afield as Chile and South Africa, as well as emerging golf nations such as Slovenia and Croatia. "I'm delighted that this unique course for our profession is being recognised by a company of the worldwide stature of Toro. I know that our students will benefit greatly from this award and the experience it will give them," said Howard.

Rex Hansen, International Marketing Manager for Irrigation Products, said: "Toro is supporting this award as part of its commitment to education and training in the golf industry. As with our support for greenkeepers and Course Managers, we believe it's important for us to be working with architects."

Bob Buckingham, Toro's European Sales Manager, said: "Golf course architects are key people in the industry. They are responsible for the development of new courses and we want them to understand the use of irrigation systems and turf maintenance machinery." The first recipient of the new award will be chosen from students who will complete their course in January 2000. An expert judging panel made up of representatives of BIGGA and Toro, with the course's educational manager, will assess the young golf course architects on their academic achievement on the course, the standard of their presentation and project dissertation and by personal interview. For the winning student, there's the career-enhancing kudos of becoming 'The Toro Student Golf Course Architect' and prize of an all-expenses-paid visit to Toro's impressive worldwide headquarters in Minneapolis and its irrigation division in Riverside, California, USA. There also will be visits to famous golf venues such as the Los Angeles Golf & Country Club and the Olympic Club, in San Francisco.



New supporters go for gold



BIGGA announce five new Golden Key Supporters at the show and they were presented with their plaques by key note speaker Frank Dick at the Chairman's Lunch in the Majestic Hotel. Joining the existing group of Golden Key Companies are Stylo Matchmaker, Rolawn, Bernhard and Co Ltd, Amenity Technology and The Grass Roots Trading Company. "It is thanks to the support of key companies within the industry that BIGGA has a healthy Education and Development Fund and I am delighted to welcome the five Golden Key Supporters into the BIGGA family," said Executive Director, Neil Thomas. "It is only through the support of these companies that BIGGA can fund its many educational initiatives which include the production of books and videos, as well as ensuring that the many excellent training courses at regional and national level can be run at a cost to the individual far lower than would otherwise be the case," added Neil.

Four of the new Golden Key Companies will be profiled within the pages of Greenkeeper International over the next few months while Stylo Matchmaker, who have just launched a range of work and leisure wear under the BIGGA banner, appear in the current issue of the magazine. The complete list of Golden Key Companies is as follows:- Amazone Ground Care, Amenity Technology, Barenbrug, Bernhard and Co Ltd, Charterhouse Turf Machinery Ltd, Grass Roots Trading Company, Hayter Ltd, John Deere Ltd, Kubota UK Ltd, Mommersteeg International, Ocmis Irrigation UK Ltd, PGA European Tour, Rainbird, Rhône-Poulenc Amenity, Rigby Taylor Ltd, Rolawn, Scotts, Stylo Matchmaker, Supaturf Products Ltd, Textron Turf Care and Specialty Products, The Toro Company. The Silver Key Companies are:- Avoncrop Amenity Products, Ernest Doe & Sons, Lambert/Fenchurch, Sisis Equipment Ltd and Weed Free.

Hayter dinner

The annual Hayter dinner held in the George Hotel on the Tuesday of Harrogate week saw Gibsons Machinery Sales crowned Dealer of the Year for the third year in succession. Stuart Mercer accepted the award. The Outstanding Dealer of the Year was BS Mowers of Bristol, with Steve George accepted the award. Overseas Partner of Distinction was Commonwealth War Graves Commission with Derek Parker, Director of Horticulture accepted the award. Salesman of the Year was Alistair Rowell, of Carrs Agriculture in Hexham. Tony Hazard, Hayter's Divisional Director from Tomkins presented the awards while Geoffrey Fletcher, of Drake & Fletcher, in Kent gave the vote of thanks.

Mastering their profession

BIGGA'S elite band of Master Greenkeepers has been swollen to 20 thanks to its biggest ever single intake, with four new greenkeepers entitled to carry the letters MG after their name.



Sid Arrowsmith, of Frilford Heath Golf Club; David Duke of Seddinersee Golf and Country Club, Germany; John Quinn, of Elmwood College Golf Club, and David Hannam, of Royal Eastbourne Golf Club, each received a plaque and a Master Greenkeeper blazer badge from BIGGA Chairman Gordon Child during the National Education Conference in

the Majestic Hotel. The title "Master Greenkeeper" is a sign of someone at the top of the profession and can only be bestowed once he has completed 10 years as a Course Manager or Head Greenkeeper; collected 200 credits, achieved by acquiring qualifications, attending educational seminars; had his golf course inspected by another Master Greenkeeper and passed a rigorous written exam. Of the new intake, David Duke is the first based in continental Europe and is a protégé of another Master Greenkeeper, David Whitaker, of The Wisley; while last October, John Quinn was a runner-up in the Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping. The 20 current Master Greenkeepers include five from the United States, one is from Germany with the other 14 from the United Kingdom.