



Excellence in Greenkeeping

Finalists: Ireland

This edition of Greenkeeper International went to press before the Irish finalist was announced. Full details of all finalists will appear on the BIGGA website as soon as they are released. Point your browser to www.bigga.org.uk for the latest news and events from the Toro Awards and the greenkeeping industry in general. *SMc*



Scotland

Ronnie Bunting, Kilmacolm GC

Ronnie is 46 and has been Course Manager at Kilmacolm GC, near Glasgow, for the last 14 years having been a greenkeeper for 32 years and a Head Greenkeeper for 24. A staunch BIGGA supporter he regularly attends BIGGA Regional training courses while he has been Chairman and Secretary of three BIGGA and before that SIGGA Sections. A keen advocate of good environmental practice under Ronnie's management Kilmacolm has received awards from the Scottish Wildlife Charter, the BIGGA Environmental Competition, in association with Amazone and Grass Roots and the National Green Apple Award scheme. He is qualified to D32-D33-D34 and acts as an internal verifier for the GTC while he gives talks to local SVQ level 2 students.



Wales

Gary Johnstone - Southerndown GC

Gary is 29 years-old and arrived in Wales eight years ago from his native Scotland. Born in Aberdeen he began his career at Aberdeen Kings Links before spending three and a half years at Carnoustie. He moved to Southerndown as Deputy Head Greenkeeper in '92 and was promoted to Head Greenkeeper just over a year later. His greenkeeping education began at Elmwood College where he achieved his Scotvec levels 1,2 and 3 in sports turf maintenance while he is currently completing his HNC in Golf Course Management at Pencoed College. He still finds time to play golf to a handicap of 4.

English Semi Finalists:

Due to the large number of entrants and size of the country, four semi-finalists were selected. The English finalist was not possible to announce before this edition of Greenkeeper International went to press. *SMc*



Graham Waller - Henley G&CC

Graham is 30 year's old and a Yorkshireman. He moved into greenkeeping after initially training as a nurse. The change of direction occurred when he took a short term job at Maxstoke Park GC in 1989 and his potential was spotted by Trafford Stonebridge who encouraged him to go to college. He moved to Henley in '94 to gain experience in the growing-in and maintaining of a new 27 hole development.



Richard Barker - Kirby Muxloe GC

Richard is 36 and has been Head Greenkeeper at Kirby Muxloe, near Leicester, for a number of years. A staunch BIGGA supporter he is a current National Board Member and a regular attendee at many BIGGA functions on a Sectional, Regional and National basis. He plays to a handicap of 2 and is the current Leicestershire County Second Team Captain.



Terry Farkins - Dartmouth G&CC

Terry is 35 and has been Course Manager at Dartmouth for the past nine years, taking over at the growing-in stage. He states that his ambition is to win the Toro award and then to achieve Master Greenkeeper status. He is keen golfer and cricketer having played Minor County Cricket for Devon.



Gerald Bruce - Berkhamsted GC

Gerald is 38 and has been at Berkhamsted for 14 years having previously been a trainee at Hunstanton GC. He plays golf to a handicap of 2 and is married with two children Hannah (8) and Freddy (5).