



With all the skill of Klondike prospectors during the gold rush the judges for the Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping and the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award unearthed two nuggets as the 2001 Toro Champions.

# Toros 2001



Huw Morgan, Course Manager of Wilderness Golf Club in Sevenoaks, and Andrew Pledger, First Assistant at the Hertfordshire Golf Club, are worthy winners of two of the most prestigious competitions the Association has to offer.

Each year the quality available for the judges to "pan for" becomes higher and higher, a real sign that the industry is in rude health and that the golf courses of Great Britain and Ireland are in safe hands.

Huw has been a prominent BIGGA member for many years while Andrew has transferred for a successful career in retail management to make a similar impact in his new profession. Both are ideal ambassadors for the Association for the next 12 months.

Huw, who won a trip to the GCSAA Conference and Show and visits to Toro's Headquarters in Minneapolis and California, a Toro Workman 2100 utility vehicle and £250 for his team, emerged for a strong group of finalists which included Alan

Purdie, Head Greenkeeper of Crail Golfing Society; David Murdoch MG, Course Manager of Liphook Golf Club and Alan Strachan, Head Greenkeeper of Royal County Down.

Each received a Toro 1000 Greensmaster pedestrian to mark the achievement of reaching the National Final.



Main: Huw Morgan and Andrew Pledger

Inset: Excellence finalists and judges: (Back) Walter Woods, Bruce Jamieson, Bob Buckingham, Neil Thomas. (Front) Alan Strachan, David Murdoch, Huw Morgan and Alan Purdie



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Andrew won a six week study course in Massachusetts and visits to the Toro headquarters in Minneapolis and California as well as the GCSAA Conference and Show in Orlando

Runners-up in the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Competition were John Stuttard, of Askham Bryan College and Wyke Ridge Golf Centre, near Leeds, and Ewan McCabe, of College of West Anglia and Gog Magog Golf Club. Each wins an all expenses paid trip to Harrogate for BTME 2002.

The other student finalists who each won through to the National Final from their regions were Mike Robertson, of Myerscough College and Penrith Golf Club; John Williams, of Teagasc, in Dublin, and Athy Golf Club; James Murphy, of Old Head Golf Club; Mark Wilshire, of Pencoed College and Llanishen



Above: Runners up: Alan Purdie, David Murdoch and Alan Strachan

Golf Club, and Mark Cummine, of Langside College and Buchanan Castle Golf Club.

Thanks to all the regional judges who took part in the early stages of the event and the final judges - Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping: Bob Buckingham,

Toro's European Sales Manager; Bruce Jamieson, Toro Consultant and former PGA European Tour Director of Agronomy; Walter Woods, former Course Superintendent of St Andrews Links, and Neil Thomas, BIGGA's Executive Director. Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year

Award: Andrew Brown, of Toro; Pete Mansfield, Lely (UK) General Manager Turf Products; BIGGA's Education Sub-Committee Chairman, Jim Paton, and BIGGA's Education and Training Manager, Ken Richardson.



Above: Student finalists and judges: (Back) Mark Wilshire, John David Williams, Jim Paton, Andrew Brown, Ken Richardson, Pete Mansfield, Mark Cummine (Front) Mike Robertson, John Stuttard, Andrew Pledger, Ewan McCabe and James Murphy