

The final



**THE
TORO
AWARD**
FOR EXCELLENCE
IN GREENKEEPING

approach

It is perhaps the most select band of greenkeepers to be found anywhere - only four members strong but with the collective knowledge and talents of an army. That number will be added to by one when the panel of judges meets to decide upon the 2001 winner of the Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping.

It will not be an easy task because already the four finalists have been through an arduous selection process just to reach this stage and when one of Alan Purdie, Crail Golfing Society; David Murdoch MG, Liphook GC; Huw Morgan, Wildernesse GC, or Alan Strachan, Royal County Down GC, is announced as the 2001 winner he will become a very worthy member of what will then become the Famous Five.

Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping Roll of Honour

2001 - Who will be named as our winner?
2000 - Iain Ritchie - Portmarnock GC
1999 - Brian Turner - Sunningdale GC
1998 - John Coleman - Abbeydale GC
1997 - Ian McMillan - Hankley Common GC

The Interview Panel

The final interview panel will consist of Walter Woods; former Courses Superintendent at St Andrews Links; Bob Buckingham, Toro's European Sales Manager; Graham Dale, Managing Director, Lely (UK) Ltd; Bruce Jamieson, Toro Consultant and former Director of Agronomy of the PGA European Tour and Neil Thomas, Executive

Director of BIGGA.

Each finalist will already have been judged at country level* and had their course visited by Walter and Bruce.

*David and Huw both won through in the combined England and Wales final.

The Prize

The winner will receive a Toro Workman 2100 Utility Vehicle, plus a trip to the States to visit the GCSAA Conference and Show in Orlando, Florida, and the Toro Headquarters in Minneapolis and California next February. The winner's team will also receive £250.

The three runners-up will each win a Greensmaster 1000 Pedestrian Mower.



Alan Strachan
Royal County Down GC

Alan is 34 years old and has been Course Manager at The Royal County Down Golf Club for the past six years. Born in Scotland, Alan has been in the industry for 16 years. He has held the Deputy Head Greenkeeper position on three of the best links courses on the east coast of Scotland, these being Montrose, Royal Dornoch and Carnoustie. A keen member of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of Ireland he is currently on the National Executive. He has also been a member of BIGGA for the past 12 years. RCDGC is situated in an ASSI, an ANOB and a SAC, and the management programme involves minimum spraying of chemicals. Alan is a keen golfer, playing to a handicap of 8 and is married to Pauline with two children, Gregor (9) and Eilidh (6).



David Murdoch MG
Liphook Golf Club

David is 32 and has been Head Greenkeeper at Liphook since 1995. He started work as a 16 year-old on a YTS scheme at Dunnikier Park GC in Kirkcaldy, Fife in 1985 before moving to Dunfermline Golf Club as an apprentice a year later before moving on to become Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Dunfermline in '91. He moved to Old Thorns Golf and Country Club in Hampshire later that same year. In '93 he moved to Liphook in Hampshire as Deputy Head Greenkeeper and became Head Greenkeeper in '95. He became a Master Greenkeeper in May 1999.



Huw Morgan
Wildernesse Club

Huw is 35 and has been Course Manager at the heath and woodland Wildernesse Club in Sevenoaks, Kent, since '93. Prior to that he had been at Fairwood Park GC, parkland course in South Wales, between 1985 and '90 where he was Course Manager before moving to become Course Manager at Southerndown Golf Club, a links course. He remained at Southerndown for three years before moving to his present club. He is currently waiting to sit the Master Greenkeeper exam and is studying an HNC Distance Learning Course with Elmwood College. His hobbies are golf, football and rugby. He is married to Salli-Anne and they have three sons.



Alan Purdie
Crail Golfing Society

Alan is 44 and has been Head Greenkeeper at Crail Golfing Society since 1991. Prior to that he was Head Greenkeeper at the Eden (links) Course at St Andrews for 3 years after moving there following an eleven-year stint as both Assistant Head and latterly Head Greenkeeper at Broomiknowe Golf Club, a moorland course. His greenkeeping experience has covered courses of most persuasions including Links, Parkland, Moorland and the Hills course at Lothianburn GC, where he started his greenkeeping career. Alan's hobbies include playing off 2 at St Andrews, where he is a member, collecting golf memorabilia books and supporting his beloved 'Heart of Midlothian' football team. Married to Margaret for 24 years, their daughter, Cara (20) is currently studying an Art degree, while their son, Craig (18) is a greenkeeper at the Old Course, St Andrews.