



Welcome

YOU'VE ALL DONE VERY WELL!

It's a month for congratulations.

Top of the list must be Bevan Tattersall, Courses Manager at the De Vere Belfry, and his team for preparing the Brabazon course for what must rank as one of the best Ryder Cup matches, not to say sporting occasions full stop, in quite some time. Bevan set up the course exactly how home team Captain, Sam Torrance, wanted it, and to that end can take some credit for the magnificent European victory. And the icing on the cake was that I didn't hear any criticism of the conditions from Curtis Strange's American team, which is even more of a tribute to Bevan.

Second on the list is Murray Long, Head Greenkeeper, at Coombe Hill GC, and the 2002 Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year winner. Murray, whose smiling face you see on the front of this issue, is a deserving winner of the Award. It is very refreshing to see someone so open in his desire to do well. He set his mind on winning the competition and made every effort to ensure he gave himself the best possible chance.

He was the 14th winner of the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award and each year the competition demonstrates why it is the longest standing competition on the BIGGA calendar. The quality of young people coming through the ranks is growing all the time and the bar, for any potential winner, is being raised every year. That can only be good for the profession and the industry.

Next in line for a fanfare is Ian Semple, Course Manager of Old Folds Manor GC, and BIGGA's new National Golf Champion.

Ian, who also represents the South East Region on the Association's Board of Management, clinched the title at Hillside and Hesketh Golf Clubs. It was a particularly fine achievement bearing in mind that Ian won the Gross prize last year at Royal Birkdale and Southport and Ainsdale. To win any Nett prize off a handicap of 1, playing golf courses for the first time is some going. He is now looking forward to defending his title at Hollinwell and Coxmoor Golf Clubs next year.

Finally I'd like to congratulate Neil Ballingall, Golf Course Superintendent, at the new St Andrews Bay resort, on cliffs overlooking the Home of Golf, which is featured in this issue. Neil has had to set up his greenkeeping team of 25 from scratch to look after the two excellent golf courses and employ course management practices which are alien to someone who has learned the job on traditional links courses. Having been shown round the resort by Neil, he seems to have taken to it all like a duck to water - he has even done a bit of modelling, having been featured in the Resort's glossy brochure, supping a pint in hotel bar!

So to Bevan, Murray, Ian and Neil. Well done, and keep up the good work!

Scott MacCallum, Editor

MESSAGE OF THE MONTH

To coincide with the launch of the new look BIGGA Bulletin Board we are announcing a brand new competition. To celebrate the new board which, has been redesigned in an easily used format, we are sending one of these fantastic desktop FM scan radios to the member who has written the best message on the board each month. The Bulletin Board enables greenkeeper members quick and direct communication amongst themselves and with the Association. It can be found in the greenkeeper members area of the BIGGA website at www.bigga.org.uk. Why not log in, see what's topical and make your contribution. Message of the Month winners will be announced on the Membership page of Greenkeeper International magazine each month.



SHEFFIELD SECTION



The Sheffield Section pictured at Hickleton Golf Club where the recent Annual Competition, sponsored by Mansfield Sand, was held.

TWO NEW FACES

Charterhouse Turf Machinery has made two new appointments.

Paul Gregory, 23, becomes Southern Area Sales Manager with responsibility for sales of all Charterhouse turf equipment and Antonio Carraro tractors in the south of England. Paul, who holds a degree in Landscape Architecture from Birmingham University, was previously a sales demonstrator for Charterhouse, and has been with the company two years.

The second new appointment is Ashleigh Harpur, who has joined as Marketing Assistant and will work closely with Charterhouse Director, Philip Threadgold. Ashleigh, 24, hails from Zimbabwe and has lived in the UK for three years. She is a graduate in Office Practice from Cambridge Tutorial College, and has strong computer skills.

"At Charterhouse Turf Machinery we pride ourselves on our enthusiastic approach, and Paul and Ashleigh have already blended extremely well with our pro-active team," said Philip.



TED WEST



Ted West, of Broadstone GC received his retirement gifts from National Chairman, Richard Barker after 44 years in greenkeeping.

Email press releases and new product updates to: scott@bigga.co.uk