

## THE UNSUNG ALWAYS HAPPY TO HELP

Ian Willett, Course Manager at Thorpeness Golf Club in Suffolk, and Arthur Williams, Head Groundsman at Ynysangharad Park, Pontypridd, South Wales, were proclaimed Terrain Aeration's Unsung Heroes for 2005.

At the annual awards held during Harrogate Week, Steve Gingell, Southern Area Manager for the STRI, spoke on behalf of his fellow judges Gordon Child, BIGGA, and Derek Walder, IOG, praising the winners for their selfless work with both junior members of their own green and groundstaff and those from a wider area.

"Both men maintain their sports facilities to the highest possible standard but despite the demands of the job they are never too busy to help and advise those further down the ladder. Arthur, who has been at Ynysangharad for 40 years, has been a mentor to many young groundsman and will always take time out to help people on placement, including those with learning difficulties. Ian, who took Thorpeness to win the BIGGA Environmental Award, is known for always putting his staff first, and his availability to anyone seeking help or advice. Both men freely pass on their knowledge and lend their support for no personal gain or recognition," stated Steve.



Arthur Williams, front left, and Ian Willett, front right, celebrate their achievement

The winners will enjoy a week's holiday in the South of France, with Terrain Aeration donating the hire of a house in Lanquedoc and sponsors, Turf Professional magazine and Pitchcare, donating £200 towards travelling expenses.



BIGGA Chief Executive, John Pemberton, draws out the winner of the 9 Hole Golf Competition. Jon Boorman, North Wilts Golf Club, wins £1,000 of holiday vouchers

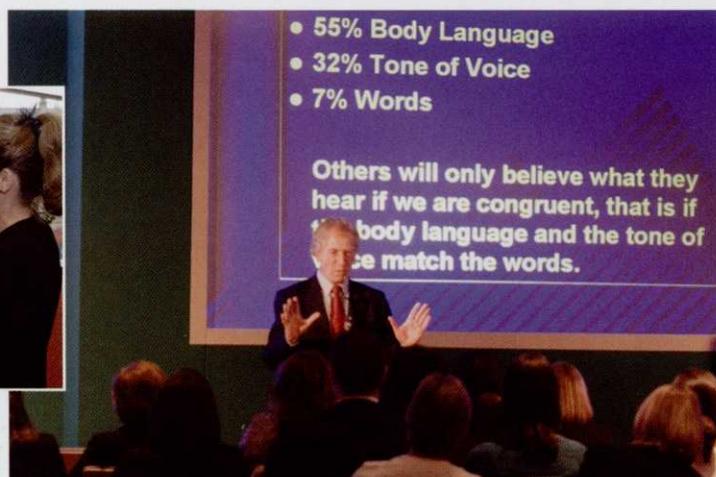


The now well sung Ian Willett with his Thorpeness team as they receive their BIGGA Environmental Prize, sponsored by Scotts, Syngenta and WRAP

## FEMALE FORUM FLYING

Harrogate Week 2006 staged the third ever Women's Networking Forum. The annual Fine Turf and Sports Management Exhibition debuted the Forum in 2005, and the networking group has gone from strength to strength within its first year, which included its second meeting occurring at Saltex 2005.

Held in the Harrogate International Centre's new Queen's Suite on the Wednesday of Harrogate Week, the forum was open to both sexes and had a fine attendance of 35. These witnessed presentations from BIGGA's Sales Manager, Rosie Hancher, and Brin Bendon, Vector Training. Topics covered included Developing and Using Networking Skills and the Importance of Good Body Language. The talks were followed by an open discussion regarding the current issues within the fine turf industry.



"I am delighted to be involved in The Women's Forum which is going from strength to strength. The Forum provides an opportunity to learn skills that help you develop personally and professionally in a very friendly and relaxed environment. I was very pleased to meet so many new people this time - the word is spreading," stated Rosie.