

## TORO STUDENT OF THE YEAR

I recently participated in the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Competition 2007. This was a fantastic experience and opportunity that also allowed me to meet seven great finalists from throughout the UK.

I would like to thank the BIGGA staff and the judges for their warm welcome. The accommodation and facilities were excellent. This is an amazing competition and would not be available for students without support from Toro, Ken Richardson and Sami Collins. This was the 19th Student of the Year Competition and Ken's last, so now he can finally enjoy his retirement (welcome on board Rachael).

It was fun to go out in Harrogate after the presentation, this then allowed everyone to enjoy the experience and relax after the two days hard work. The meal and drinks were a delight. The bowling was interesting as well, but I think the BIGGA staff and Billy McMillan had been practicing!

BIGGA is a fantastic organisation and this is shown by the achievements from its staff and members. With the support from my family, work colleagues, members from Abbeydale, Steve Prinn (Askham Bryan College), Gordon Brannah (Sheffield Section) and my Head Greenkeeper, Warwick Manning, it made this all worth while...Thank you and congratulations to Avon Bridges.

*Lewis Birch  
Abbeydale GC*

## STUDENT OF THE YEAR

I am writing to express my many thanks to the Learning and Development Department and all BIGGA staff involved with the recent 2007 Toro Student of the Year competition.

I felt privileged to be chosen as one of the eight finalists and to be selected as one of the runners up was fantastic. Everyone I met was very helpful and made the entire weekend very enjoyable.

I found it exciting and feel I have gained valuable experience throughout all the stages of the Award. I have also met some very interesting people and made some very useful contacts.

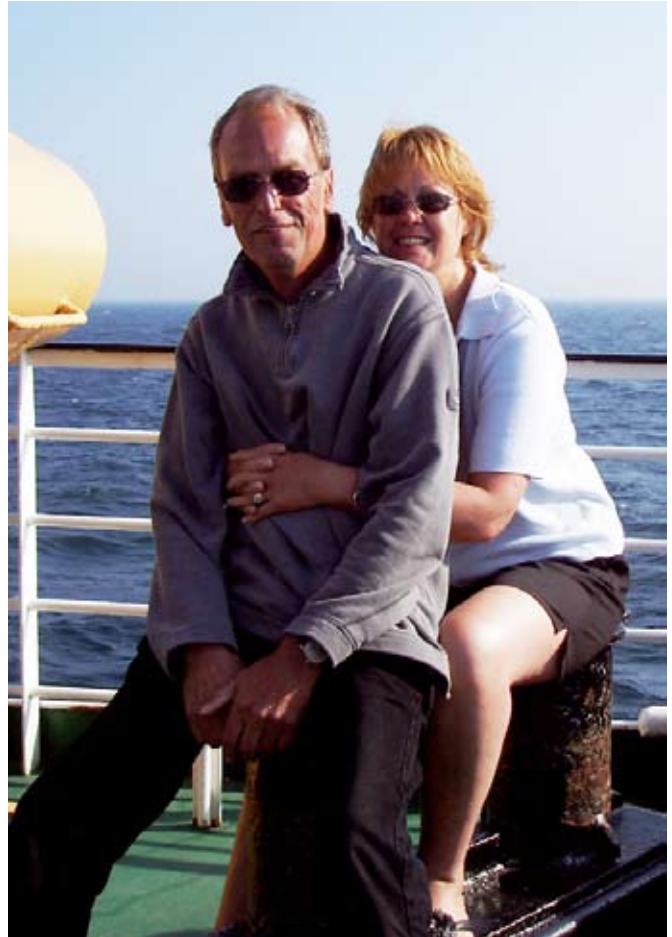
I look forward to seeing some of you again during Harrogate Week. Thank you once again.

*Simon Lambert  
1st Assistant Greenkeeper  
Seaford Head Golf Course*

## DIL BARNARD

It is with regret, that we report of passing of Dilwyn Barnard, Salesman at Grasshopper Ltd, Toro Dealer in Essex.

Dil passed away on Saturday, September 22, after a brave, two-year battle with Cancer.



Dil was 59 and had worked at Grasshopper from 1989, having previously worked for Hensmans Agricultural dealers in Ingatestone, Essex, as a fitter. After which he joined Chelmsford Plant Hire as a Fitter, and Trainee Salesman.

He enjoyed Sailing from Bradwell Marina when he was younger, and in the latter years enjoyed travelling with his wife, Maureen, and the Scilly Isles were a favourite.

Dil leaves his Wife, Maureen, son Neill, Daughter Sally, and four Grandchildren.

He will be sorely missed by family, friends and colleague's alike, for his legendary humour and ability to make everyone he met feel instantly at ease.

*Arnold Phipps-Jones  
Essex Section*