

SAD NEWS

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Kelvin Sansum, Head Greenkeeper of Newton Green Golf Club. Kelvin fought a long battle with illness over the years, but continued to work whenever possible at the club, for whom he worked for 22 years. His commitment to his family and popularity in the area was expressed by those who packed the church, with many left outside for his funeral service at St Andrews Great Cornard. Our thoughts are with his wife Caroline, and his two daughters, Carlene and Danielle. He will be greatly missed.

Colin R Rushbrook
President of East Anglian Section

SPORTS RELIEF

To everybody who sponsored me for the sports relief mile, a huge thank you. I set out with the aim of raising £100 and finished with a total of £1,085. Thanks to all of you which once again proves what a great industry we work in. Included in that total was an anonymous donation of £75 from either a group of people or an individual?

To check out everyone who sponsored me you can go to: www.mysportrelief.com/personalPage. The registrationID is 93236. The donations credited to myself came from you technophobes who promised me cash which I did on my card so for those who haven't paid me yet, I shall me round looking for the money!

You will be pleased to know that I ran the three miles in 24 minutes and due to my rigorous training regime (restricting myself to one glass of red wine on Saturday night) I felt fairly good so I ran a 4th mile and finished in 32 minutes and it only took me twice as long as that to recover. I was also fortunate that I had some good companions to encourage me along.

The person who gave me the idea was Steve Isaac so I don't know if I will ever speak to him again.

Thanks again

Gordon



THANK YOU

When I was put forward to be considered as Toro student greenkeeper of the year by my tutor, Andy Wight, I was thrilled that my work had been recognised and felt honoured. I dreamt of going to America as I sat at the kitchen table writing my initial entry, never expecting to even come close to the finals.

The opportunity to be interviewed and to discuss greenkeeping at both the regional and national finals was a great experience. All the other greenkeepers I have met during this process are great representatives for the industry and I wish them all the best in their future careers. The weekend of the national final was a lot of fun as I was able to spend time discussing other peoples courses and sharing new ideas over a drink or two. I was greatly impressed by the knowledge and passion shown by all the finalists especially those who had only spent a few years in the industry.

I cannot begin to explain my thrill at being nominated as Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year. Attending the Winter school for turf managers at the University of Massachusetts was a once in a life time opportunity and enabled me to build on my experience and skills as well as network with greenkeepers from around the world, I would highly recommend the course to anybody interested in learning more about turf management. The trade show in Florida opened my eyes to the new technology available to me in my work and introduced me to some interesting new concepts. I was warmly welcomed at the Toro Headquarters in Minneapolis and the factories in Tomah and Chicopee, the work that goes into developing and producing state of the art greenkeeping equipment is very impressive, I was able to see the process from start to finish.

I would like to thank Lely, Toro and BIGGA for this amazing opportunity to represent British Student greenkeepers and for recognising the importance of education as part of greenkeeping. I am lucky to have had the ongoing support of Andy Wight, an exceptional tutor. I would also like to thank Luton Hoo for supporting me in this venture. Last but not least I would like to thank my family and wife Barbara for encouraging me to do my best and for never complaining about the time away from home even though our first child Charles was only four weeks old when I left for America.

I wish the best of luck to this year's nominees, enjoy every moment!

Avon Bridges
Head Greenkeeper
Luton Hoo

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