



John Steps into Retirement

BIGGA Headquarter's staff were on hand to pay tribute to retiring Chief Executive John Pemberton last month and presented him with gifts bought from donations gathered from staff, Past Chairman and others keen to pay tribute to his 18 year contribution to BIGGA.

John was given a book containing pictures from all aspects of his BIGGA life over the years and a driving experience where he will get behind the wheel of a number of performance cars including an Aston Martin and a Ferrari.



GROUNDSMAN OF THE YEAR AWARDS ANNOUNCED BY FOOTBALL LEAGUE

The winners of the 2011 Groundsman of the Year awards for the npower Football League have been announced.

After a season when extreme weather pushed pitches to their limits, the efforts of ground staff across the country have been recognised.

Ewan Hunter, of Nottingham Forest, has been named winner of the npower Championship accolade, with Burnley's, Paul Bradshaw, and Gary Kemp, of Norwich City, both highly commended.

Carlisle United's, David Mitchell, scooped the Award for npower League 1 while Joe Aylett, of Milton Keynes Dons, and Southampton's, Andrew Gray, – last year's winner – both received commendations for the surfaces at Stadiummk and St Mary's.

In npower League 2, Anthony Haywood brought more success to promotion winners Chesterfield with the divisional Award for best groundsman. Bradford City's, Michael Doyle, and Shrewsbury Town's, Richard Barnett, were highly commended.

Presented by the Playing Surfaces Committee, the Groundsman of the Year Awards recognise the importance of the quality of pitches and to acknowledge head groundsmen and their staff.

The Awards are determined initially using marks from referees and away managers for each game, and are then followed by detailed pitch inspections and a review of management operations. These visits were carried out in late March and early April.



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