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NOVEMBER 2011

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**STRI Golf Environment Awards: 2011 Winners**

The winners of the 2011 Golf Environment Awards, supported by BIGGA, are announced. Richard Stuttard, of the STRI, reveals all...

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**Overall Achievement Award**

The top award this year is presented to Loch Lomond Golf Club. David Cole and his team at Loch Lomond have been driving towards environmental sustainability for a number of years.

The setting definitely has natural beauty, however a great deal of work is required to maintain the golf course to a high standard to its surroundings. To win our top award, clubs need to be achieving exemplary work in each of our key performance areas: nature conservation, waste management, water management, and turfgrass management, and Loch Lomond ticks all these boxes.

Conservation Management is largely directed by Deputy Course Manager, Darren Marshall, with the full backing of the General Manager and the Director of Golf.

The club works to a detailed management plan, covering scrub, grassland, tree and water feature management.

The club is also responsible for the conservation of three Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), covering the loch shore, veteran trees and urban rock habitats.

Water Management is also dealt with very effectively and through diligent management planning, the club recycles 92% of all waste generated, including clubhouse and on course water, tea, card and plastics.

Their aim is to manage the turf to the highest quality based on proven agronomic techniques, with a particular emphasis placed on Integrated Pest Management (IPM). Several cultural practices are key to Loch Lomond's success in one of the most challenging areas of the UK, annually experiencing over 2,000 mm of annual rainfall, poor light levels, high humidity, poor air flow and inherent poor soils.

Effective drainage on the course helps to improve playability, being able to remove the excess water expeditiously ensures good turfgrass health and prevents course closure.

The turfgrass nutrition programme for their USA specification greens is based on a 'light and warm regime' feeding programme using soluble applications. Amounts are dependent on

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