

# UK clubs show world-class environmental credentials



Richard Stuttard from the STRI hands out the awards, supported by BIGGA, for 2012's most environmentally aware golf clubs

**This year, golf clubs throughout the UK have shown STRI judges just how committed they are to adopting environmentally sensitive best practice management techniques. As always, after the difficult task of selecting 32 finalists from a large number of applicants the judging team have visited all corners of the UK witnessing the very best that environmentally focused UK golf has to offer.**

This year more clubs new to the Golf Environment Awards have become involved, providing our team of assessors with a fascinating insight into how the role of environmental management is becoming an increasingly common factor among our course managers, greenstaff and club representatives.

For those not familiar with the Golf Environment Awards the premise is that by applying for this free to enter programme and informing the team of judges of all environmentally positive works you are undertaking, there are a number of benefits to both the individual golf club and the golf industry as a whole. Firstly, simply by applying, the club are sending out a message that the environment is important to them. Secondly, if you apply and become one of our 32 finalists, you receive a visit from an STRI consultant to view and discuss your work and provide advice on how things can progress even further. Accompanying this visit is a feedback report which you can use to help promote your achievements as a finalist within the programme and gain external support for the work you have been doing as well as using this as a valuable marketing



ABOVE and INSET ABOVE: Thorpeness Golf Club

**2012 Golf Environment Awards, supported by BIGGA**



RIGHT PAGE ABOVE AND INSET RIGHT: North Foreland Golf Club







tool. Finally, if you become a prize winner you will be exposed to a considerable amount of marketing publicity both in the media and at key media events including BTME and our own marketing event held at Wentworth.

So, if you haven't already, why not give it a try next year! Here are our ten winners from 2012:

**Overall Achievement Award – Thorpeness Golf Club**  
**Conservation Greenkeeper of the Year – Dan McGrath, North Foreland Golf Club**  
**Scottish Region – Dundonald Links**  
**Northern Region – Lee Park Golf Club**  
**Welsh Region – Aberdovey Golf Club**  
**Southern Region – Hankley Common Golf Club**  
**Nature Conservation Award – John O' Gaunt Golf Club**  
**Water Management Award – The Roehampton Club**  
**Waste Management Awards – Fairhaven Golf Club**  
**Turfgrass Management Award – Royal Aberdeen Golf Club**

Many congratulations to all our winners - their attention to detail and enthusiasm was hugely impressive and we are delighted to see such a broad range of clubs involved.

Thorpeness Golf Club, located in an idyllic area of Suffolk, has long been an advocate of environmentally friendly golf course management and has been involved in the Golf Environment Awards for many years. Course Manager Ian Willett has stressed that it is the enthusiasm and dedication of his greenstaff that has enabled them to achieve so much in just a 12-month period – and they have certainly achieved a lot. The course supports a wealth of different habitats – from fine leaved grasslands and broad leaved trees, to heather, gorse, bracken and water features and all are being managed for the good of golf course strategy, visual appearance and biodiversity value.

The result is a golf course which provides great pleasure to all who play there.

Dan McGrath is a first time entrant, and over the last few years he's made quite an impact at North

Foreland. Prior to his arrival the classic chalk grassland characteristics of the course were becoming lost to an influx of coarse leaved grass species, scrub and ground ivy.

Dan has however managed to turn this around through the application of well-timed cultural management techniques include cutting and scarification and scrub removal. The club are now at a point where there are huge expanses of fine leaved grasslands providing stunning definition to the fairways and providing invaluable habitat for a wide range of species.

Congratulations again to all of our winners and on behalf of STRI I would like to extend our sincere thanks to BIGGA for their continued support of the awards and to our sponsors, Ransomes Jacobsen, Everris, Syngenta, County Turf, Golf Monthly, Greenkeeping and Operation Pollinator, without whom this free to enter scheme could not occur.

For more information on this year's winners and details on how to apply for next year's awards please visit [www.golfenvironmentawards.com](http://www.golfenvironmentawards.com)

ABOVE: North Foreland Golf Club

2012 Golf Environment Awards sponsors

**everris.**

**JACOBSEN**

**syngenta**

**Greenkeeping**

**GOLF MONTHLY**  
THE GOLF MONTHLY AWARDS

**COUNTY TURF**  
where the grass is always greener

**OPERATION**  
  
**Pollinator**