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The Toro final three

Toro youngsters shine

Congratulations to our cover star Thomas Flavelle of Lingdale Golf Club who triumphed over a very impressive field of fellow student greenkeepers to take the coveted Toro title last month.

As ever it was incredibly inspiring to spend time with the six finalists who are all clearly going to have very successful careers in course management.

I would like to take this opportunity to formally thank the Toro company for their continued long term support of the Student Greenkeeper of the Year award. Thomas is the 24th recipient of the award and joins an illustrious Roll of Honour.

There is no doubt that all of the greenkeepers that entered the process have made a key conscious decision to make course management their career rather than it being just a job.

This decision is undoubtedly the first step on the road to success but unfortunately choosing the next one is not always easy.

I'm delighted therefore that within these pages are details of a series of seminars which will be held around the Regions entitled 'So You Want to be Promoted – Essential Skills for your Career Development' which aim to provide aspiring greenkeepers with advice and assistance in developing their careers.

The seminars are being led by a number of successful Course Managers who have all made the journey from novice to expert and I am sure they will be hugely beneficial to all who attend.

The recent Saltex exhibition in Windsor provided many BIGGA members with the opportunity to attend seminars put on by the Association.

We are grateful to the Institute of Groundsmanship for facilitating this opportunity to put on quality education during their event. Attention now turns to BTME in Harrogate and the associated Continue to Learn education

programme. The brochure, to be found within this magazine, contains full details of the Turf Managers Conference, the one and two day Workshops, our new 'Focus On' sessions and the free Seminar programme.

The programme has been put together taking into account delegate feedback from previous years so I expect it to be very popular, don't delay in returning your booking form!

You cannot fail to be impressed by the innovative means that BIGGA members find to effectively manage their facilities and to provide better, more consistent playing surfaces for their customers within budgets that are constantly under pressure.

This edition contains a prime example in Karl Parry from Denbigh Golf Club (page 28) who has not only found an innovative solution to green consistency, he is turning that in to a thriving business opportunity.

We are very keen to feature other examples of innovative or unusual practices that our members are successfully implementing, please let us know if you have stories that will be of interest.



Jim Croxton
Chief Executive