

TORO®

Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year 2013

The final eight

The finalists for the annual Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year competition, held at BIGGA House, have now been chosen. Here's the shortlist...

Here are this year's finalists for the coveted Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year prize, who will all be bidding to walk away with the crown at the final at BIGGA HQ next month

Who will succeed Thomas Flavelle? Thomas has already enjoyed a superb trip to the States and secured another job since he won the award last year – showing what a boost it can be for your career.

Even being nominated is an achievement, so congratulations to the eight finalists.

The final consists of two intense days during which they will be asked to complete a written task focusing on the golf course here at Aldwark Manor and interviewed by a panel of judges from Toro and BIGGA.

The winner and two runners-up will then be selected.

The winner will head to the USA on an all expenses paid trip courtesy of Toro. This will last for eight weeks and include a six-week study course at the University of Massachusetts.

They will also get the opportunity to visit the GCSAA's Golf Industry Show in Orlando (shown right) and explore Toro's base in California.

The runners-up will receive a paid trip to the Continue to Learn education programme at BTME 2014.

To be eligible for the next award, candidates should be a greenkeeping student studying for a qualification up to Level Three. All entrants are nominated by their course tutor.

Thanks to everyone who entered, including those who did not make the shortlist – there's nothing to stop you entering again next year. Good luck to all the finalists – the winner will be announced next month.



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Thomas's travels

TORO Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Thomas Flavelle tells us about a life-changing eight weeks in the States, his reward for scooping the coveted prize last September

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Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year 2012 is Thomas Flavelle

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UMASS AMHERST
"I will never forget the experience that I had at UMASS and the people I met there"

JOSHUA THORLEY

Born: 7 February 1985
 Role: Assistant Greenkeeper
 Club: The Richmond Golf Club
 Handicap: 24
 College: Myerscough



Joshua began his working life as a roofer but found his true calling as a greenkeeper after joining The Richmond in 2010. He is studying for his level 3 qualification, and is looking to work overseas and gain experience at working at a tournament. He would eventually like to progress to Deputy then Course Manager. He enjoys football, golf and runs his own sports clothing website.

SCOTT ROBERTS

Born: 15 September 1990
 Role: Assistant Greenkeeper
 Club: Hankley Common Golf Club
 Handicap: 6
 College: Merrist Wood



Scott grew up at Hankley Common and spent a spell of work experience at Queenwood Golf Club, where he became involved in a project of rebuilding all 21 greens. In 2011 he joined Hanley Common where he works alongside his dad Gareth. He's joined the support teams at a series of tournaments including the BMW PGA at Wentworth and has joined BIGGA's Surrey committee. Ultimately he would like to work abroad. He enjoys golf, football and darts.

SAM EVANS

Born: 13 August 1988
 Role: Deputy Head Greenkeeper
 Club: Oakland Park Golf Club
 Handicap: 24
 College: Myerscough



Sam worked for some time at Heythrop Park where he passed a series of qualifications, before recently moving to Oakland Park. He wants to improve his mechanical knowledge, and ultimately become a Course Manager. He's had a highly eventful few years as he holds a degree in Sports Management & Coaching and got married last year. He enjoys all manner of sports especially cricket, and is also a fan of football, golf and rugby.

DANIEL HARDY

Born: 13 December 1984
 Role: Deputy Course Manager/Mechanic
 Club: Cams Hall Estate Golf Club
 Handicap: 14
 College: Myerscough



Kenn golfer Daniel started his career as an assistant motor mechanic before undertaking a Marine Engineering course. He then took on his current role at Cams Hall Estate and plans to start his Level 3 studies soon, and holds ambitions of not only managing a course but eventually undertaking the Master Greenkeeper qualification. As well as golf sporty Daniel enjoys cycling, football and cricket.

BEN WATERS

Born: 23 May 1984
 Role: Assistant Greenkeeper
 Club: Shrewsbury Golf Club
 Handicap: 13
 College: Reaseheath



Ben began greenkeeping in 2010 after initially working in manufacturing, and after a period of work experience at Shrewsbury Golf Club realised it was the job for him. He has aspirations of becoming a Head Greenkeeper and also would like to work in the USA. He is currently studying a Sports Turf NVQ2.

JAMES WILKINSON

Born: 29 April 1981
 Role: Assistant Greenkeeper
 Club: Highwoods Golf Club
 Handicap: No
 College: Plumpton



James was working for a landscaping firm when he was given the job of returning the tees on a local golf course, and became so interested in the course he secured a job as a greenkeeper. He learned on the job before joining the rolling parkland at Highwoods. He's enjoyed this role hugely and has been supported by the club in his college studies. Outside of work he enjoys fishing, running and watching football.

LUKE TURNER

Born: 24 May 1980
 Role: Greenkeeper
 Club: Willingdon Golf Club
 Handicap: 28
 College: Plumpton



Luke is currently studying for his level 3. He has regularly volunteered to join the team at Devonshire Park which holds tennis tournaments, while continuing to put all his efforts into Willingdon. He would like to gain international experience at some point in his career. He's always been fascinated by links golf courses and is a keen surfer and rugby player.

PAUL WALSH

Born: 5 May 1981
 Role: First Assistant Greenkeeper
 Club: The Royal Dublin Golf Club
 Handicap: No
 College: Teagasc – College of Amenity Horticulture in Dublin



Paul began his career studying Mechanical Engineering but became hugely interested in turfgrass management, and in 2008 began working at Palmerston House Golf Club in County Kildare. He joined The Royal Dublin Golf Club in 2010 and after achieving his FETAC Advanced Certificate in Greenkeeping was promoted to First Assistant. He hopes to progress to Deputy Head Greenkeeper in time.