

WELCOME FROM BIGGA

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Industry future in safe hands

The title of Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year is hard won and rightly so, its presence on a CV carries significant weight if the successful careers of many of the former winners is anything to go by. Luke Turner's achievement in earning this year's award ahead of a very impressive line up of fellow finalists is therefore not to be underestimated. Congratulations to him and all the eight finalists; as one of the judging panel said to me afterwards 'the future of our industry is in safe hands'. Luke has taken a slightly unusual route to finding his career of choice but having done so he has quickly grasped that education is the absolute key to future success. We wish him well on his extremely intensive trip to the University of Massachusetts Turf School in the new year courtesy of Toro.

The runners up, Sam Evans and Scott Roberts, will hopefully now be perusing the enclosed 2014 Continue to Learn at BTME brochure to plan their own prize – an all expenses trip to Harrogate in January. I hope that many of you will take advantage of the superb learning and development opportunities that are taking place at BTME. The programme has been carefully put together following extensive feedback from the membership and genuinely offers something for greenkeepers at all stages of their career. The huge success of the Continue to Learn programme has meant that we are starting to outgrow the facilities at the Harrogate International Centre and are expanding in to the Crown Hotel which is just a short walk away. The centrepiece of the programme will take place at the Crown on Monday 20 January 2014 – The 4th Annual Turf Managers' Conference. An excellent array of speakers including the very popular Professor Karl Danneberger from Ohio State University have been confirmed for what will be an informative, not to be missed event for all turf managers. Don't delay in reserving your place on the

conference, workshops and/or seminars as with all stand space in the exhibition sold out we confidently expect this year's BTME to be a great success.

Last month we were saddened to hear of the untimely passing of an industry stalwart in Keith Kensett who was a great supporter of greenkeepers and the greenkeeping and groundsmanship industries in general. Never short of a strong opinion and generous with both his time and sage advice he will be sadly missed and our sympathies at this time are extended to his wife Jane and two boys Richard and Joe.

October is traditionally the time for BIGGA to crown its National Golf Champion and I am very much looking forward to seeing who comes out on top of the pile at the excellent Frilford Heath Golf Club. I know that Sid Arrowsmith MG and his team have prepared the course beautifully and that a very warm welcome awaits all competitors. May I wish all those looking to take Oly Browning's crown the very best of luck and hope that the generally clement weather that 2013 has enjoyed lasts into October.

Enjoy the read.



Jim Croxton
Chief Executive, BIGGA