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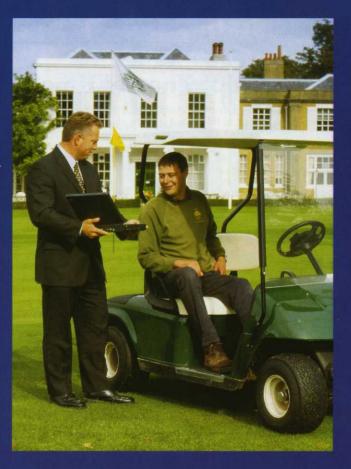
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In October, more than 90 new members joined BIGGA, and began to take advantage of the many savings and benefits available to them. Tracey Maddison gives details on just a few of them...

#### Membership renewal time?

Many of you will be due to renew your membership at the end of this month or January 2001. Don't forget if you pay for your own subscriptions, you can take advantage of paying by direct debit and spreading the cost over 10 equal monthly payments. 25% of members are already taking advantage of this service, why don't you?

If you are retiring from greenkeeping at the end of this month,



congratulations! However, your BIG-GA membership doesn't have to retire with you, why not apply for retired membership of BIGGA and keep in touch with your friends and the industry? Contact Tracey in Membership Services for further details

Once you have returned your completed renewal form, together with payment, we will send you a new 2001 Membership Renewal Pack, containing your membership card and useful information including telephone numbers regarding the many benefits and services available to you as a valued member of BIGGA. Read it and keep it for future reference - one day you may be glad you did!

If you have any queries or any general enquiries regarding membership services or benefits, please contact Tracey on 01347 833800.

#### **November's Monthly Membership Draw Winner**

Just introduce one or more new greenkeeping members to BIGGA and your name will be placed into a draw to win a fantastic BIGGA sportswatch. Our congratulations go to November's winner, Andrew Holdsworth of Sturminster Marshall GC.

#### **BIGGA** welcomes...

#### Scottish Region

Garry Anderson, West Graeme L Bryce, Central Richard W Cutler, North Keith Robert Hedley, Ayrshire Steven Peter Hemsley, Central Graham MacKie, North Stuart Manattini, Central James Muir McGowan, West Brian David Needs, Central John Roxburgh, Ayrshire

#### Northern Region

Bryan William Berry, N West Andrew Halifax, Sheffield Andrew Graham Hullah, Northern Stephen Kenyon, N West Gary Ian McKie, N West Scott Lee Ratchford, N West

#### Midland Region

Paul Bramley, E Midland
Dale Ian Costes, Midland
Mark Terrance Coppage, Midland
Brian Fox, BB&O
Michael Ginger, BB&O
Russell Mark Heathcote, E Midland
Peter John Holden, E Midland
Andrew Holloway, Midland
Stephen William Hutchinson, BB&O
Norman John Knox, BB&O
Richard Alan McCrohan, BB&O
Graeme Reeves, BB&O
Richard Shropshire, Midland
Russell Philip Swanwick, Midland
Ben Ronald Swift, BB&O
Trevor John Ward, Midland

#### South East Region Paul James Andrews, Kent

Louis Alan Ayres, Surrey
John Paul Bell, Sussex
Adrian Bryant, Surrey
Ian William Cardy, Surrey
John Graeme Clarke, London
Luke Denton, Sussex
Steffan Elliott, Kent
Darren Elliott, Kent
Darren Elliott, Kent
Lee Felton, Kent
Dominic Foster, Surrey
Andrew Stuart Furness, London
Philip William Gill, Surrey
Andrew Greedy, Surrey
Paul Greenfield, Sussex
Alan Edward Jiggins, Essex
Paul Olaf Larsen, Kent
Sarah Mardon, Kent
Darren Pettengell, Sussex
Richard Henry Phillips, Essex
Kelvin Sales, Kent
Robert Cameron Welford, Sussex

#### James Peter Wells, Surrey S West & S Wales Region

William Martin Clarke, Dev/C'wall Simon Peter Clarke, Dev/C'wall Thomas Lewis Gleason, S West Christopher John Gowen, S West Colin Green, S West Martin Haydn Howell, S West Gary L Vile, S West Richard Woods, S West

#### Northern Ireland

Lee Michael Edwards, Paul Johnston, Michael Edward Kennedy, Jeffrey Lamb, Joel Robinson, Alan William Simpson, Alastair Andrew Smyth John Ward, Fintan Peter Ward.

#### International Members

Stewart MacIntosh, Germany David Mallinder, Germany Frank Schafer, Germany Roy Douglas Machray, Spain Jaview Nunez, Spain

#### **Associate Members**

Kate Entwhistle, Northern Tom Henry, Northern David Burton Smith, E Midland Clive Dryden, Surrey Gene Bates, USA

#### **Student Members**

Glenn Cameron, East Graham Grant, North Richard Coppe, N West Tony Owen, N Wales Ben Corby, E England Timothy Parker, Mid Anglia James Peter Lowe, Surrey Gavin Yeoman, Surrey Daniel Robbins, S West Mark Farragher, Rep Ireland

> Check out January edition next year for November's new members!



I hope that by now, all of you have applied for your Individual Learning Accounts. If the number applying matches the entries for this year's essay competition then they will have to take on extra staff.

#### The Learning Experience 2001

Applications for the Learning Experience 2001 are flooding in to BIGGA HOUSE and places on the Workshops are filling fast. The deadline for applications for the Learning Experience 2001, sponsored by Textron Turf Care and Specialty Products, is January 10, 2001. Make sure of your place by sending in your entry NOW. Extra copies of the Learning Experience brochure and application form are available from BIGGA HQ.

Visit the Royal Hall on Thursday 25 January and receive even better value than previously advertised in the Learning Experience brochure. Appearing at 11am until 11.30 will be Chris Byrd, from Milliken Chemicals, speaking on Drainage Improvements with Soil Structure Management. Simon Barnaby, from Scotts UK Professional, will follow at 11.30 with a session on the USGA Specification.

#### BIGGA's Education and Training Manager, Ken Richardson reports on the latest education and training developments

**TORO Competitions** 

The Finals of the TORO Excellence in Greenkeeping and Student of the Year Competitions were held at BIGGA HOUSE at the end of October. Full details are printed elsewhere in this magazine but I would



like to congratulate all finalist, especially Iain Ritchie, the Excellence Award winner and Jonathan Clelland the Student of the Year. The weath-



er almost caused problems and three finalists had to be evacuated from South Lodge. It was a difficult job to separate the finalists and select the winners in both competitions as the Standard was as high as ever. Thanks to the continued sponsorship by TORO these competitions go from strength to strength.

#### **Regional Training Courses**

There are still plenty of places available on a number of courses being held in the New Year. These are:

#### Essential Management Skills for Greenkeepers

Greenkeepers
Moat House Hotel, Sheffield,
5 and 6 March, Brin Bendon
Cost for BIGGA Members £120.00 + VAT

#### Interviews and Appraisals

East Cliffe Hotel Bournemouth, 21 and 22 March, Frank Newberry Wokefield Park, Reading, 12 an 13 March, Frank Newberry Burrendale Hotel, Newcastle, Northern Ireland, Brin Bendon Cost for BIGGA Members £120.00 + VAT

#### **Making Budgets Count**

Quality Hotel, Walsall, 12 and 13 February, Brin Bendon East Cliffe Hotel Bournemouth, 15 and 16 February, Frank Newberry Cost for BIGGA Members £120.00 + VAT

#### Health and Safety Update Old Fold Manor Golf Club, Barnet,

6 February,Tony Rees Cost for BIGGA Members £50 + VAT

#### **Negotiation Skills**

BIGGA HOUSE, 28 February, Brin Bendon Cost for BIGGA Members £50.00 + VAT

#### Manual Handling and Risk Assessments

Old Fold Manor Golf Club, 7 February, Tony Rees Cost for BIGGA Members £50.00 + VAT

#### On Course

Remember to visit the OnCourse stand at BTME if you want to obtain more information on this extremely useful software package. Designed to assist greenkeepers to maintain records on staff, machinery, the golf course, stock, budget and health and safety, the package is available from BIGGA priced at £800. Demo disks are available from BIGGA HOUSE.













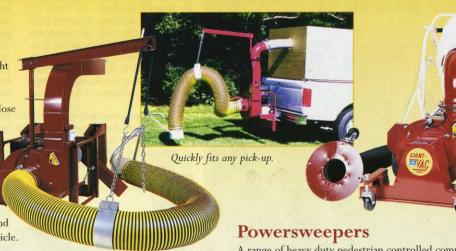
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David McInroy is Managing Director of Scottish Grass Machinery, one of Europe's top Textron dealers, based in Scotland. Here he talks about how to get the best from your dealer.

## DEALMEIN

#### From leading to cutting edge

If Scottish Grass Machinery is to reach its target, to double turnover to \$20 million by 2005, we must continue to listen to the specialist needs of our customers and manufacturers.

To achieve this high pace of growth, we will once more revolutionise what the right dealer will offer its customers.

We have developed a new way of doing business. If we are to revolutionise the market it is important that we bring together the manufacturer and customer to share information and at the same time listen to other experts in the golf industry. Our new approach is called 'From the Leading Edge to the Cutting Edge'.

#### What the dealer is doing

This new way of doing business was kicked off recently with our Cutting Edge conference. This brought together golf experts from all over the world to map out the future of the golf industry in Scotland.

Our panel of eight internationally renowned speakers gathered at the SGM Group's Inverkeithing headquarters in October to share information with more than 300 greenkeepers, Club Secretaries, Ground Convenors and Captains about a number of topics affecting the future growth of the golf industry. These included marketing, the environment, and the manufacture and supply of ground maintenance equipment.

Customers were given an insight

Below: Eddie Adams (left), Head Greenkeeper at St Andrews Old Course, and Jimmy Kidd were at a recent Scottish Grass Machinery two-day course, entitled Caring for Golf Courses.



into how some of Scotland's top golf courses such as Meldrum House Golf Club, the Old Course at St Andrews and the courses at Gleneagles are promoted in Scotland and overseas.

By bringing the manufacturer, dealer and customer together in a forum for discussion, issues such as environmental factors affecting the golf industry put us in touch with customer needs.

#### What the manufacturer is doing

At the same event Harold Pinto, Textron's Managing Director-International, explained Textron's new marketing strategy - the Jacobsen range for golf courses and the Ransomes range for local authority and municipal markets. The new Jacobsen Greensking VI golf green ride-on mower was also launched to the Scottish market.

We firmly believe in this new marketing approach. We have created a stand alone golf division which markets the Jacobsen products to the golf market, and a separate dedicated team marketing the Ransomes range to the local authority and municipal market.

By being in step with Textron's UK strategy, we will further improve our customer service by offering dedicated sales, service and support teams for the golf market and local authority and municipal market, who know the equipment for each industry inside out

#### Bringing manufacturer and end user together

A full range of machinery was on display at the conference, which allowed Textron to hear 'from the horses mouth' what the market thinks of their new range. Customers were also given the opportunity to test drive each of the products and Textron staff were on hand to answer any queries from customers.

Textron's Regional Manager Ian Bridges introduced each product including the Jacobsen, Ransomes, E-Z-GO, Cushman and Ryan brands. Product demonstrations were carried out on our mini golf course at the back of the dealership in front of a seated grandstand.

#### What's in all of this for the customer?

Scottish Grass Machinery has had to change constantly, improve and find new, better ways of doing things. We have driven the ground maintenance industry forward in Scotland. Over the last few years we have concentrated on a much more professional, customer-focused way of doing business.

A year ago Scottish Grass Machinery recognised that our customers need a more flexible way of financing the cost of equipment, and of maintaining and servicing machinery. Backed by Bank of Scotland, SGM Finance was born to allow customers to control their costs with a contract with no hidden extras.

In one case we managed to save a golf club which was in serious financial difficulty from struggling on with old and broken machinery. We were able to supply them, after trade-ins, with £100,000 worth of brand new equipment at a monthly cost they could afford. And if our customers prefer, we can even build in payment holidays during the winter when no green fees are collected.

SGM Finance gives our customers new equipment with no capital outlay. Instead, there is a monthly payment which guarantees a fixed price for up to five years which covers servicing, maintenance and breakdowns.

In the case of a breakdown we guarantee a swift response and if we cannot fix the problem there and then, we supply the same standard of replacement machinery until the problem is fixed - that's guaranteed.

Scottish Grass Machinery ensures that customers can see for themselves the quality of our products. We have two staff who are constantly on the road taking products to our customers for demonstrations on golf courses all over the country. This ensures that all of our customers get the most out of our equipment and the best quality cut. We also provide a day's training which leads to a competency certificate for their operators.

Quality is something we take seriously at Scottish Grass Machinery. In November last year we were



Above: Stuart Harley and Willie Reed test out two new SGM delivery vans. The green livery denotes SGM grass machinery, while the blue refers to SGM industrial.

awarded the prestigious BS EN 9002 1994 industry quality standard. We then also recognised that the

We then also recognised that the service levels that we introduced through SGM Finance could be applied to other related sectors - giving rise to SGM industrial. Our business diversified and our product range extended to provide our existing customers with a one-stop shop which as well as ground maintenance equipment includes precinct sweepers, tractors, snow-clearing gritters, woodchippers and shredders.

To accommodate this structure, we became the SGM Group with three divisions, grass machinery, finance and industrial.

#### Investing in the future

Since moving to Inverkeithing in 1997 we have continued to invest in our premises, technology and most importantly rigorous training for our people. As well as regular in-house training, all of SGMs mechanics are given a minimum of two weeks offsite training at Textron's factory in Ipswich.

We have invested £30,000 in a giant-sized Kardex Industriever as

part of our constant drive to improve customer service. The machinery operates a carousel enabling quick and easy access to more than 15,000 stored parts.

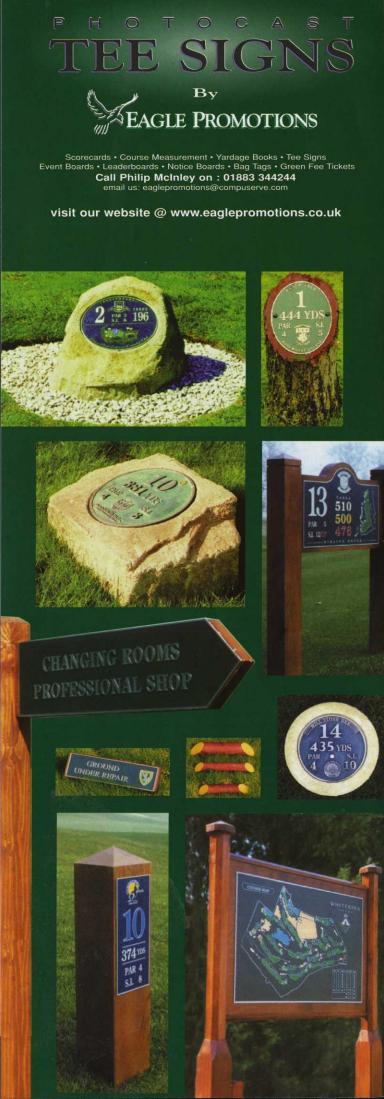
This piece of equipment has dramatically improved the spare parts order processing and at the same time allows the company's 15 field service engineers to further enhance the first class after sales service they currently provide.

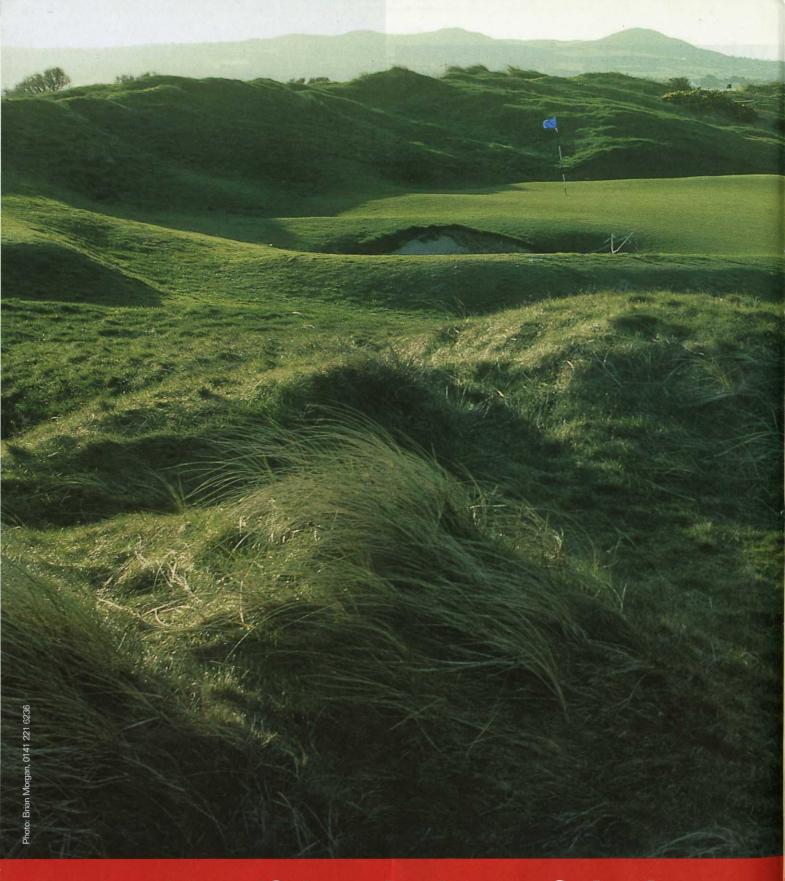
Time is of the essence in meeting customer demand. It now takes seconds to access a part using the Industriever. This means we are able to provide an even more efficient maintenance and support service to our customers. It has also reduced the floor space required for parts storage by around 70%, which we now use as additional workshop space.

Looking to the future, the creation of these new business innovations does not mean we have time to rest on our laurels. If we are to become a £20 million business, it is essential that we continue to move our entire industry from the leading edge to the cutting edge.

Below: Neil Henderson perfects the Old Course greens watched by SGM's Steven McInroy, while Eddie Adams tries out a piece of new machinery.







#### Toros - Identifying the best of the best



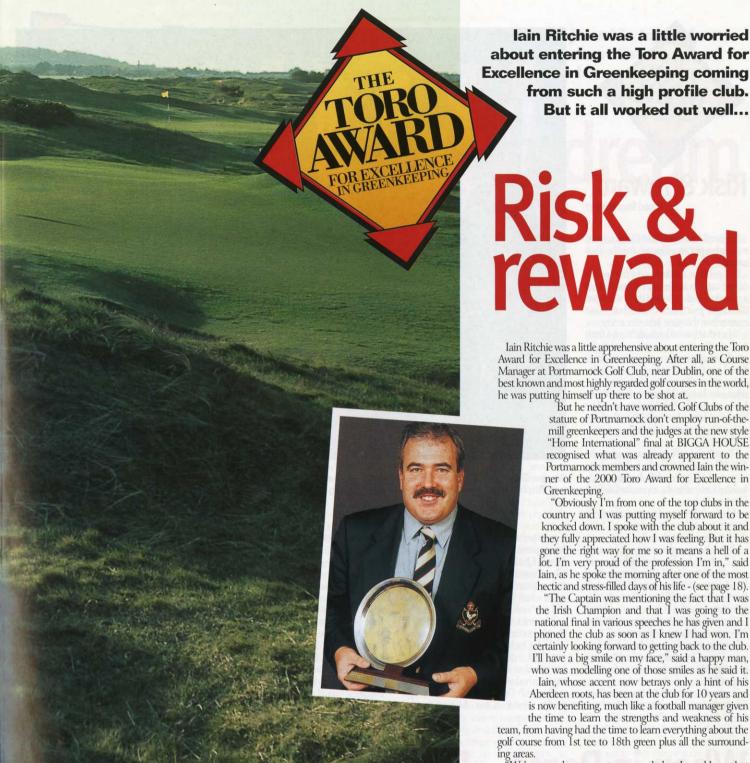
because of the incentives of the Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping and the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year competition or do the awards merely amplify the increasing standards that have been there all

The reality is probably somewhere in between. Standards are rising within the industry with better education and an increasingly high quality of candidate being attracted to greenkeeping... but the Toro Awards

are very juicy carrots for the more ambitious and motivated within the profession and undoubtedly entice many into striving that little bit harder to win a Toro title. Doing so ensures that a CV stands out from the crowd for an entire career.

The 2000 Toro Awards continued to produce more evidence of growing standards unveiling as they did two fine Champions from two pools of finalists any one of of whom would have worn his particular crown with genuine distinction.

The winner of the re-styled Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping was won by lain Ritchie, of Portmarnock Golf Club, the Irish finalist... once he Golf Club, the Irish finalist... once he got there, with Ronnie Bunting, of Kilmacolm Golf Club and Scotland; Terry Farkins, of Dartmouth Golf and Country Club and England, and Gary Johnstone, of Southerndown Golf Club and Wales, all making it a difficult decision for the judges, Walter Woods; Graeme Dale, Managing Director of Lely UK; Bruce Jamieson; Toro Agronomy Consultant and Neil Thomas.



Risk & reward

lain Ritchie was a little worried

from such a high profile club. But it all worked out well...

Iain Ritchie was a little apprehensive about entering the Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping. After all, as Course Manager at Portmarnock Golf Club, near Dublin, one of the best known and most highly regarded golf courses in the world, he was putting himself up there to be shot at.

But he needn't have worried. Golf Clubs of the stature of Portmarnock don't employ run-of-themill greenkeepers and the judges at the new style "Home International" final at BIGGA HOUSE recognised what was already apparent to the Portmarnock members and crowned Iain the winner of the 2000 Toro Award for Excellence in

Greenkeeping.
"Obviously I'm from one of the top clubs in the country and I was putting myself forward to be knocked down. I spoke with the club about it and they fully appreciated how I was feeling. But it has gone the right way for me so it means a hell of a lot. I'm very proud of the profession I'm in," said Iain, as he spoke the morning after one of the most hectic and stress-filled days of his life - (see page 18).

"The Captain was mentioning the fact that I was the Irish Champion and that I was going to the national final in various speeches he has given and I phoned the club as soon as I knew I had won. I'm certainly looking forward to getting back to the club. I'll have a big smile on my face," said a happy man, who was modelling one of those smiles as he said it.

Iain, whose accent now betrays only a hint of his Aberdeen roots, has been at the club for 10 years and is now benefiting, much like a football manager given the time to learn the strengths and weakness of his

team, from having had the time to learn everything about the golf course from 1st tee to 18th green plus all the surround-

ing areas.

We've upped a gear or two recently but I would say that was down to natural progression rather than a conscious decision to do so. It is also gratifying to see see that Portmarnock is placed number seven in the recent Golf World magazine rankings. We've jumped four places from last year and for an old established golf club to do that with so many other courses coming in is very good. The committee was pleased and it was just reward for the efforts we've put in in the last few years. This minor tweaking, redesigning and reshaping work is starting to show, while we've just spent half a million on a new irrigation system. It's just an insurance policy really," he

Projects in the pipeline include the reconstruction of the 12th green which will be put out to contract.

"It's something to get our teeth into and is a big project for Portmarnock Golf Club and depending upon how this one goes there may be more to come."

Iain and his team are well supported by the the Honorary

Secretary and the General Manager.

"The Honorary Secretary, Joe McAlease, is also what we call the Links Convener and he has a serious passion for the golf course, there is no other way to describe it. He loves it and gets very involved. He'll come down and have a cup of tea with the staff and tell a few jokes. It's a very nice atmosphere.

erry actually made history having been the first man to have reached the final both the Toro Student Greenkeeper the Year Award, in 1991 and, eight cars later reaching the national final the Toro Excellence Award as well. progression is a model for young

greenkeepers everywhere.
Jonathan Cleland, of Helensburgh Golf Club and GOSTA Training won the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year Award with Michael Sawicki, of Richmond Golf Club and NESCOT and nce Harrison, of Enderby Golf Course d Brooksby College, runners-up each

inning an all expenses paid trip to Judges in the Student Award final were Jim Paton, Chairman of BIGGA's Jim Paton, Chairman of BIGGA'S
Education Sub-Committee; Pete
Mansfield, General Manger Turf
Products, of Lely UK; Andy Brown, of
Toro, and Ken Richardson.
Getting back to the original conundrum.
There is no definitive answer but let us merely delight in the fact that standards are on the up and up and thank Toro for putting in place two competitions which benefit greenkeepers and golf clubs all

over the country.



#### Risk & reward

continued from page 17

"General Manager, John Quigley, is the man who put me forward for the Toro award."

It is perhaps a reflection in the quality of golf courses in the Irish Republic that a previous attempt to win the Toro award didn't get past Section level but it did ensure that this year Iain was ready.

"After that I stood back and took a fresh look at the entire operation and tight-ened up many working practices, and this time I got the staff more involved in the competition. They were fully aware of what was happening, when it would be happening and what the place would be like," said Iain, who would describe himself as employing the hands-on approach to the job.

The golf club will greatly appreciate the Toro Workman 2100 which they receive as part of the prize while Iain is already looking forward to the trip to the GCSAA Show in Dallas.

"I haven't been to the show for about seven years and ironically it was at Dallas the last time I was there."

He is also complimentary of his staff of 12, whom he describes as being very enthusiastic and loyal. They benefit from Iain's success to the tune of £250 while Iain is sure that will be added to by the golf club.

"I've had very little turn-over in the last 10 years, mostly it's been retirals."

Prior to moving to Ireland Iain had been Head Greenkeeper at Ladybank, a wonderful heathland course not far from Cupar, Fife.

"I was at Ladybank for five years from '85. It was a super club to work for, I was



Above: The Toro Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping finalists. Front row: Ronnie Bunting, Terry Farkins, lain Ritchie and Gary Johnstone with the judging panel behind

a member as well and it was difficult to leave, particularly as in '90 we had an Open Qualifier for the St Andrews Championship and I would have loved to have stayed and prepared for that. I must admit I have very fond memories of Ladybank.

"However, there was a big carrot being dangled in the shape of Portmarnock and an Irish Open which was held 10 weeks after I got there," said Iain who adds that his arrival at Portmarnock was the first time he had ever set foot on Irish soil."

That Irish Open went well with a high profile winner in Jose Maria Olazabal

while the course achieved much more publicity when it hosted the 1991 Walker Cup.

In the run up to the match, then American amateur golden boy, Phil Mickelson, made a derogatory remark about Irish women - so unimpressed with their beauty he didn't want to go into the rough to be too near them - which caused such a diplomatic incident that George Bush, "Dubya's" dad the then US President, had to apologise.

"The course went down well with everyone though as it always does," said Iain, who is married to Yvonne with two daughters Lisa and Lynzie.

Portmarnock has also received a couple of visits from Tiger Woods, who has taken to honing his game for the Open with a few days in Ireland tackling some of the finer links courses.

"He comes into the club afterwards and is always very open. It's nice when things like that happen on your golf course."

It seems a lot of nice things are happening to Iain at the moment and they are all much deserved. "I turned 40 last week and now this. It's been a very good Millennium for me."

### When in Rome... Find a way to get back!

For such an important day as the Toro finals you would imagine that a finalist would get an early night and be up, ready, and prepared well before the interview time.

Not Iain Ritchie. The tale of what happened on the day of the finals would make a fine sequel to John Cleese's film Clockwise.

To celebrate his 40th birthday Iain and wife, Yvonne, had booked to spend the long weekend in Rome only discovering later that the Monday coincided with the Toro finals.

Let Iain take up the story.

"There was nothing to do but for me to fly out early on Monday morning and for Yvonne to come back at the scheduled time later that night.

"However, the day coincided with day

one of the horrendous storms which hit much Britain.

"I left our hotel at 6am to get the 8.30 flight to Heathrow where I was due to change for Leeds/Bradford. When I got into the airport everything to and from London was delayed because of the storms. I then tried to buy a ticket to get to Amsterdam from where I could then fly directly to Leeds/Bradford but I couldn't because my luggage by this time had been checked in.

"With my interview at 3pm all I could do was keep Joe Bedford, who was at BIGGA HOUSE, informed by mobile what was happening. After what seemed like days we eventually did get airborne but there were further delays as we circled Heathrow at least 15 times. When we did land I had to run from Terminal 2 across to Terminal 1 for the British Midland lounge. I was carrying my presentation because I hadn't wanted to risk it going missing

"By this time it was already about 3pm and I had been due on the 12.45pm flight to Leeds/Bradford. Fortunately this flight hadn't left and I thought finally things were going my way... but then

it didn't take off until half past four.

"Sitting waiting for this flight I was desperate and quite prepared to hire a car, and driver if necessary, to drive me to York. It meant so much to me to be

"I had a car booked at Leeds/Bradford and knew that Aldwark Bridge was closed for redevelopment. I'd organised a route from my computer Route Master but Elliott (Small) came on and told me that this way was closed because of the weather so I had to go another way by memory."

"I eventually arrived at the Hotel at 6.50pm and, after a quick shave, was sitting being interviewed at 7.10pm, the scheduled time having been moved back as far as was possible to accommodate me.

"The last thing I wanted to do was jump straight out of the car and be slap bang in the middle of an interview situation but the later it got in the day the more unfair it was on everyone else. I was thinking of Ronnie Bunting, who'd been on first at the beginning of the day and how long he was having to wait.

"I feel that I had a nervy start to the interview but after that they had to shut me up at the end."



Jonathan Cleland explains to Scott MacCallum his love of greenkeeping and what winning the accolade of Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year means to him...

## Following a dream

Below: A proud Jonathan displays his well-earned trophies

Bottom: The 2000 Toro Student of the Year finalists with their judging panel. Jonathan is flanked by Vince Harrison on the left and Michael Sawicki on the right

to watch Helensburgh Golf Club's greenkeeping staff at work from his home overlooking the course. What he saw became the spark which ignited a passion for greenkeeping which carried him to the title of Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year for the year 2000. With single minded determination Jonathan, a keen, talented golfer and junior member of Helensburgh, told everyone who took an interest in his future both within and outside school

that he wanted to become a greenkeep-

As a small boy Jonathan Cleland used

er and set out to make that ambition a reality.

He began working at the club in the summer holidays from when he was 13 and jumped at the chance of an apprenticeship when it was offered to him by the then Course Manager, John Grainger. He gained his National Certificate at Elmwood College, and, with no full time vacancy available at Helensburgh, took a post at nearby Cameron House Hotel on the banks of Loch Lomond. There he quickly rose to become Golf Course Supervisor before being lured back Helensburgh, by current Course Manager, Ronnie Miles, with the of Head post Greenkeeper.

It was on his return to

Helensburgh that his march towards the prestigious Toro award gained momentum. He achieved his SVQ Level 3 through Glasgow-based GOSTA training and impressed tutor Chris Bothwell to such an extent that he was put forward for the competition and following a regional interview and a final interview at BIGGA HOUSE he was announced winner.

I'm over the moon. Winning the Toro Student of the Year Award for the year 2000 gives me a lot of satisfaction and a great deal of pride," said 25-year-old Jonathan, as we spoke the morning after some considerable celebrations in Aldwark Manor Hotel.

Asked if there was any stage at which he felt he had the qualities which set him apart from the rest he answered with honesty and in a manner devoid of cockiness.

"I am very confident and I take a lot of pride in detail in the work that I do on the course. I'm quite a perfectionist...although that can be a weakness," acknowledged Jonathan, who is proud of the fact that he prepared Helensburgh for the highlight of its calendar, the Helensburgh Golf Week, earlier this year when a late change of date meant

Ronnie was on holiday. While Helensburgh Golf Club means a great deal to him - he has a long held dream to be the Course Manager of his

home course - he also feels much of what he learnt while at Cameron House Hotel has, and will continue, to stand him in good stead.

"Initially I was involved in all aspects of work on the leisure complex includ-ing landscaping and this has given me skills and experience which is useful to

me on a golf course as well.

Despite ultimately being in charge of the Cameron House golf course he was delighted when Ronnie offered him the chance to return to Helensburgh.

"It was the fact of going back to my home course and returning to an 18hole club and something which was first and foremost a golf course and not an add-on facility for residents, as was the course at Cameron House.

Jonathan knew of the Toro Student of the Year Competition but never thought he could possibly win it. He did well in his regional interview and prior to the final took a

decision which emphasises the dedicated approach he takes to his career.

"I was going to bring my girlfriend down to Aldwark Manor for the final but then Ronnie Bunting - who'd qual-ified for the Toro Excellence Final as Scottish winner - called me to ask if I wanted to travelled down in the train with him. I thought it would be a great chance to quiz him about the Association and greenkeeping so I decided to leave my girlfriend behind."

It paid off and Jonathan is appreciative of the information Ronnie was able to pass on during that train journey from

Glasgow to York

"It is actually now, through talking to Ronnie, winning this award, and having gone through the stages, that I can sit back and appreciate what BIGGA can actually do for an individual and for the profession as a whole. I'm definitely going to get more involved with the Association," said Jonathan, who says that Ronnie Miles and Alan Glachan, Head Groundsman at Cameron House Hotel, are the two people who have helped him most with his career.

Having enjoyed a trip to Australia earlier in the year - one on which his girlfriend did accompany him - he is looking forward to heading stateside too and making the most of his Toro prize.

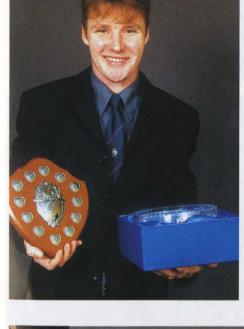
The six week study course will increase my knowledge and give me a greater understanding of how things work over in the States while meeting new people and students of different nationalities will be an experience in itself in multicultural terms. What with the trips to Dallas for the GCSAA Conference and show and the trip to California I'll get a lot out of if. Toro support of this competition is wonderful and like the winners before me I'm sure I'll benefit greatly from it."

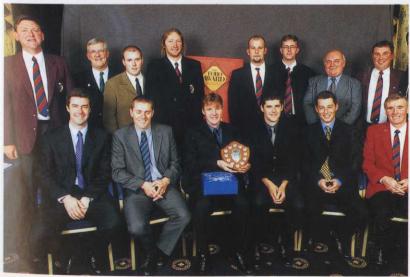
Back home he will continue his education and is currently looking at his

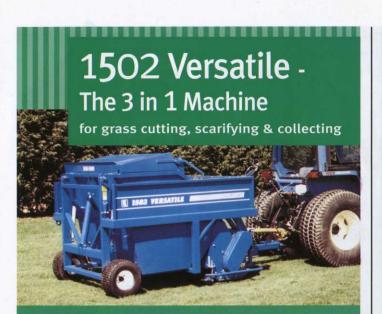
options.
"The SVQ 3 was very useful to me in the position I hold as it included budgeting, forecasting and management skills and as I work closely with Ronnie and I'm encouraged to give my opinions on a range of things the NVQ gave me the confidence to do that. I'll be looking at perhaps a national diploma and when and if I have my own course SVQ Level 4.3

You can be sure that whatever Jonathan decides to tackle next he will succeed as the little lad who watched Helensburgh's greenkeeping staff switching greens from his own garden has become a perfect role model for any other youngsters who may be making early career decisions.









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# Education & Training for Professional Greenkeepers



As a member of the Greenkeepers Training Committee, BIGGA is actively involved in raising the Standard of Greenkeeper Training. The range and quality of training now available means that there is a training course for every greenkeeper which should improve the quality of greenkeeping and help to produce quality golf courses. Golf course managers should ensure that their staff are trained to the highest standards, beginning by selecting a training provider that meets the criteria laid down by the GTC. There is a clear link between education, training and economic success and if you think that training is expensive then try ignorance.

Ken Richardson Education and Training Manager, British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association

Tel: 01347 833800 Email: education@bigga.co.uk Website: www.bigga.org.uk



The Greenkeepers Training Committee (GTC) is continually striving to raise the standards of Golf Course Maintenance and Management and they are totally committed to ensuring that the range of qualifications are relevant to the Sportsturf sector and used by Employers for recruitment and by trainees for their own personal development.

The Government endorsed awards range

from National/Scottish Vocational Qualifications (N/SVQ's) to the more academic Higher National Certificate (HNC)/National Diploma (ND)/Higher National Diploma (HND) in Golf Course Management and the Degree in Sportsturf Science.

The qualifications are continually under review by the National Training Organisation (NTO) in association with the GTC. The quality of the delivery of these awards by the network of GTC Approved Training Providers is also constantly monitored by the GTC. For up to date independent advice on qualifications, education and training courses contact the GTC on:-

Tel: 01347 838640 Email: golf@the-gtc.co.uk Website: www.the-gtc.co.uk



greenkeeper training courses. This guide shows colleges offering courses to craft, supervisory and management levels, but it must be stated that until the GTC review is completed only the green coded colleges are approved to train greenkeepers beyond craft level. The introduction of vocational qualifications into industries, has

caused the colleges to re-think their training policies and the GTC will be issuing guidelines for the golf greenkeeping industry as to which colleges employers and their staff should be supporting. Anyone with a query regarding greenkeeper training should contact the Greenkeeper Training Committee at Aldwark Manor, Aldwark, Alne, York Y061 1UF, Tel: 01347 838640 or visit their website at http://www.the\_gtc.co.uk



ELMWOOD COLLEGE, Cupar, Fife. KY15 4JB Contact Huw Parry Tel 01334 658842 Fax 01334 658888 or Email abain@elmwood.ac.uk
Full time National Certificate, Block Release following SVQ Level II and GTC training manual. SVQ level III Block Release and Outreach available with SVQ level IV
coming soon. HNC/HND Golf Course Management available as full time, block release and distance learning. Professional development awards for football and
cricket available by both Block Release and Outreach. FEPA and COSHH, chainsaws, tree climbing and rescue techniques and Health and safety short courses



GOSTA TRAINING LTD; Unit 5E Clydeway Centre, 45 Finnieston Street, Glasgow, G3 8JU, Contact Chris Bothwell, Tel: 0141 248 2772 Fax: 0141 248 2453 Email: training@gostatraining,freeserve.co.uk SVQ 1, 2, 3 and 4 also Modern Apprenticeship in all options of Amenity Horticulture including Sports Turf and GTC. Manual. Attendance day/block release from November to March. Short courses include Pesticides, Chainsaw, First Aid, Abrasive Wheels, Manual Handling and Assessor training. Consultancy covering Noise Assessment, Site Risk Audits, Machinery Permit to Use, COSHH, Health and Safety Policy.



LANGSIDE COLLEGE, Rutherglen Campus, Buchanan Drive, Rutherglen, G73 3PF. Contact Colin S Urquhart, Tel: 0141 647 6300.

Email: colinurq@perseus.langside.ac.uk. SVQ, SGA, HNC, HND. Full time and part-time courses in Greenkeeping, Groundsmanship, Golf Course Management, Horticulture, Land and Environment and Applied Ecology. Short courses for land-based industries including Risk Assessment and Pesticides.



OATRIDGE AGRICULTURE COLLEGE, Ecclesmachan, By Broxburn, West Lothian, near Edinburgh, EH52 6NH. Contact Steve Miller. Tel: 01506 854387 Fax: 01506 853373. HNC In Golf Course Management (Part-time): Full-time National Certificate in Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Management: SVQ Level II and GTC Manual (Day and Block Release): SVQ Level III Sportsturf (Day and Block Release): SVQ Level III in Ground Care Machinery, full range of Amenity Horticulture, Landscaping and other land based subjects at HNC, National Certificate and SVQ Levels; Short Course - FEPA, Chainsaw, Forklift, First Aid. E-mail: OATRIDGE\_AGRICULTURAL\_COLLEGE\_EDU@msn.com



ASKHAM BRYAN COLLEGE Askham Bryan, York YO23 3FR. Contact: Central Admissions Tel: 01904 772211. National Certificate in Horticulture, National Diploma in Horticulture (Turf Option), Higher National Diploma in Horticulture (Golf Management Option) all available full or part time. Block release courses: NVQ Level 2 Greenkeeping, NVQ Level 3 Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Maintenance, NVQ Level 4 Amenity Horticulture. Short courses: FEPA spraying, chainsaw and brushcutter courses



EAST DURHAM AND HOUGHHALL COMMUNITY COLLEGE, Houghall, Durham DH1 3SG. Contact Tony Milan. Tel: 0191 386 1351. Full-time courses: National Certificate in Horticulture/Greenkeeping and Groundsmanship - 1 year; National Diploma in Horticulture Turf Option - 2/3 years. Part time courses: Greenkeeping and Sportsturf maintenance NVQ Level 2 - Day Release. NVQ Level 3 Greenkeeping and and Sportsturf Maintenance Day Release. Short courses: FEPA Modules, Chainsaw certification, Tree inspection, Horticultural Machinery, Safe Lifting and first aid.



MYERSCOUGH COLLEGE Bilsborrow, Preston, Lancashire, PR3 0RY Tel: 01995 642211/642222 Fax: 01995 642333 E-mail: mailbox@myerscough.ac.uk Website: www.myerscough.ac.uk Full time courses; BSc (Hon's) Turfgrass Science, HND Turf Science and Golf Course Management: ND Turf Science: NC Groundsmanship and Greenkeeping: First Diploma; Turf Science: NVQ Level 2. Part-time courses NVQ Level 2 & 3 Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Maintenance (Day/block release or Fast track work-based training qualification). HND Turf Science and Golf Course Management: HNC Turf Science: FEPA Short courses: Industry Training Support Course: Myerscough Turfgrass Foundation holds an annual conference and regular education seminars.



REASEHEATH COLLEGE Nantwich, Cheshire CW5 6DF. Tel: 01270 625131 Fax: 01270 625665 E-mail: brianj@reaseheath.ac.uk, website: www.reaseheath.ac.uk. Full time First Diploma Horticulture (Sportsturf Option) - 2 years. BTEC Higher National Diploma Colf Course Management via Years. Part time: HNC Golf Course Management with Open Learning option, NVQ Levels 1-4 Greenkeeping with Fast Track options. IOG courses available. Short courses: FEPA Chemical Safety; Safe Lifting: Chainsaws, Off-Road Vehicle Driving; First Aid.





BROOKSBY MELTON COLLEGE, Brooksby, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire LE14 2LJ. Situated on the A607 between Leicester and Melton Mowbray, contact Ann Hurt/Jo Lees. Telephone 01664 434291.

Programmes available include NVQ Level I, II, III & IV in Greenkeeping. Work based emphasis for all of these programmes. Short courses available in Arboriculture/Chainsaw work, FEDA certification, TDLB training.



BROOMFIELD COLLEGE Morley, Ilkeston, Derby DE7 6DN. Contact Admissions Officer. Tel: 01332 836600. NVQ Level I and Level II. Amenity Horticulture (Greenkeeping) Block Release course. Two years duration presented in 12 one-week blocks following guidelines of GTC Training Manual. NVQ Level III gained by 9 x 3 day blocks or day release or APL service. Also available TDLB, Pesticides, Chainsaw and First Aid Training.

#### Berkshire College of Agriculture

BERKSHIRE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, Hall Place, Burchetts Green, Maidenhead, Berks SL6 6QR. Tel: 01628 824444. Fax: 01628 824695. Email: enquiries@berks-coll-ag.ac.uk. Website: www.berks-coll-ag.ac.uk. Full-time programmes - NVQ 2 & 3 Amenity Horticulture, Sports Turf (day and block release). Short courses - Greenkeeping for golfers, NPTC Chainsaw Competence Certificates, Spray Operators Training Courses.



BRINSBURY COLLEGE, Pulborough, West Sussex, RH20 1DL. Tel: 01798 877400, Fax: 01798 875222, E-mail: Student-services@brinsbury.ac.uk Website: www.brinsbury.ac.uk FULL-TIME: BTEC National Diploma Horticulture (Greenkeeping option), BTEC First Diploma New Entrant Horticulture (Greenkeeping option), City & Guilds National Certificate Horticulture (Greenkeeping & Sportsground option), PARTTIME: NVQ3 Sports Turf Maintenance (Day release or work based), NVQ2 Amenity Horticulture (Greenkeeping & Sports Turf options), plus varied short courses including Chainsaw, Brushcutter/Strimmer, PA1/PA2A/PA6A/PA9 etc.



WARWICKSHIRE COLLEGE, Royal Leamington Spa & Moreton Morrell, Moreton Morrell, Warwick, CV35 9BL. Contact: Brian Cook
Tel: 01926 318268. Email: enquiries@warkscol.ac.uk Greenkeeping Courses: HNC Sports Turf & Golf Course Management (Day Release 2
year Programme); NVQ Level 2 & 3 Day Release and Workbased Option (we come to your); two year ND in Horticulture with Turf Option; IOG
Intermediate Diploma (evening class); Certificate in Turf Irrigation. Short Courses: Introduce your Committee to Turf Culture; Computing for
the Greenkeeper; Various throughout the year - ring for details. FEPA; Chainsaw Certification; TDLB; First Aid also RHS General and Diploma.



Currently GTC approved at Regional Training Centres, offering courses at Craft, Supervisory and Management levels

Currently GTC approved for training courses up to Supervisory level

Currently GTC approved for training courses up to Craft level only

Please note that all the college details published in this guide were supplied by the colleges themselves. Greenkeeper International takes no responsibility for accuracy of information provided. Contact the college directly for prospectuses and comprehensive information.



HADLOW COLLEGE Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 0AL. Contact Tony Leach Tel: 01732 850551. NVQ Level II and Level III Part-time Day Release with two periods of Block Release or evenings. Level II in Groundsmanship evenings. NVQ Level III Golf Greenkeeping. BTEC First Diploma Sports Turf Management, National Diploma in Horticulture (Sports Turf option). National Certificate: Sports Turf Management, National Diploma in Turf, Institute of Groundsmanship National Diploma: Sports Turf Management, National Diploma on Turf, Institute of Groundsmanship National Practical Certificate. Centres at Hadlow, Canterbury, Maidstone and Mottingham.



MERRISTWOOD COLLEGE, Worplesdon, Guildford, Surrey GU3 3PE. Contact D I Rhodes Tel: 01483 884003. Fax: 01483 884001. E-mail:info@merrist-wood.ac.uk. Website: www.merristwood.ac.uk Full time courses: National Certificate in Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Management. National Diploma in Greenkeeping & Sports Turf Management. Part time courses:, NVQ Amenity Horticulture Level 2 and 3 in the work place - we come to you. NVQ Amenity Horticulture Sports Turf Maintenance Level 2, NVQ Amenity Horticulture Sports Turf Maintenance Level 2, RVQ Amenity Horticulture Sports Turf Maintenance Level 3 (afternoon/evening release). HNC Turf Science (afternoon/evening release). Various short courses throughout the year. Please contact us for up-to-date listings and information.



NESCOT North East Surrey College of Technology, Reigate Road, Ewell, Epsom, Surrey KT17 3DS. Contact Dr S Shaw. Tel: 020 8394 3038 or email: info@nescot.ac.uk NVQ Levels I, II and III in Amenity Horticulture (Greenkeeping options) Training and assessment for the Greenkeepers Training Manual. Part time, Day Release. Duration: Two years to Level II. FEPA Spraying Courses.



OAKLANDS COLLEGE Oaklands Campus, Hatfield Road, St Albans, Herts AL4 0JA. Contact lan Merrick. Tel: 01727 737000 Fax: 01727 737752. Full time courses: National Certificate in Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Management. Part-time courses: leading to NVQ Level 2 Greenkeeping, Modern Apprenticeships. Evening courses: leading to NVQ Levels 3 and 4. Short courses: Pesticide, Chainsaw, Greenkeeper Mechanics.



SPARSHOLT COLLEGE Sparsholt, Winchester, Hants SO21 2NF. Contact Ray Broughton. Tel: 01962 776441. NVQ Level 2 Greenkeeping Practice, NVQ Level 3 Greenkeeping Supervision, City & Guilds Phase iv Management Studies, National Diplomas in Golf Course Management and Golf Studies, GTC: Greenkeeping Certificate, GTC: Certificate in Golf Course Supervision, FEPA: Short courses, Chainsaws. All courses other than Phase IV are offered on block release. Full residential facilities available. Sparsholt college provides education and training in the land-based industries.



The College of West Anglia offers a full range of courses for Greenkeepers including; NVQ Level 2 Sportsturf (Greenkeeping and Groundsmanship), NVQ Level 3 Sports Turf Maintenance, GTC Craft Certificate, GTC Certificate in Golf Course Supervision, TDLB Assessors awards. FEPA, Chain Saws, MO1. Other Courses: National and First Diploma in Horticulture and Garden Design. For further information, please contact Bob Young at our Milton Campus on 01223 860701 or Student Support at King's Lynn on 01553 761144 Ext 271.



WRITTLE COLLEGE, Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 3RR. Tel: 01245 424200 Fax: 01245 420456 Website: www.writtle.ac.uk SPORTSTURF PROGRAMMES (Contact - David Campbell) NVQ Level 2 - Sportsturf: NVQ Level 3 - Sportsturf Maintenance. NVQ Level 4 - Amenity Hortculture. HNC - Sportsturf Science. HND - Sportsturf and Golf Course Management. Other Programmers; First Diploma. National Certificate. National Diploma (with Sportsturf Option). BSc (Hons) Sportsturf Science and Management. BSc (Hons) Horticulture. BSc (Hons) Landscape and Amenity Management. MSc Landscape and Amenity Management. NVQ 2 and 3 Service Engineering. FEPA. Chainsaw. Tractor Driving

## WEST



CANNINGTON COLLEGE Cannington Bridgwater, Somerset TA5 2LS. Contact Terry Horne: 01278 655083. http://www.cannington.ac.uk Email: hornet@cannington.ac.uk BTEC Higher National Diploma in Sports Science (Golf Option). BTEC National Diploma in Sports Science (Golf Studies), Higher National Certificate Golf Course Management, BTEC First Diploma, BTEC National Diploma in Golf Course Management, BTEC Higher National Diploma Golf Course Management NVQ Level I and II Golf Greenkeeping, NVQ Level III Greenkeeping and Supervisory Management, NVQ Level IV Greenkeeping Management, FEPA Training, Chainsaw Certification, Off-road Vehicle Certification, Greenkeeper Mechanics. Certificate in Irrigation (BTLIA) 1 week course; National Certificate in Golf Greenkeeping (1yr FT). Note: HND = 2 yr course



HARTPURY COLLEGE Hartpury House, Gloucester GL19 3BE. Hartpury Marketing Tel: 01452 830065 Fax: 01452 700629. Courses available: First Diploma Horticulture, National Certificate Horticulture, National Diploma Landscaping, First Diploma Greenkeeping, Certificate in Greenkeeping, National Diploma Golf Studies, Modern Apprenticeships, Route 2 Work, NVQs available in Amenity Horticulture, Commercial Horticulture, Amenity / Turf, Amenity / Sportsturf, Decorative Horticulture, plus RHS General Examination, City & Guilds Certificate in Gardening, TDLB Assessor Awards and a full programme of amateur, leisure and day release courses.



WARREN FARM CENTRE is the base for West Oxfordshire College's education and training in Greenkeeping, Sportsturf, Amenity horticulture and allied land based courses for the whole of Oxfordshire. Courses include: NVQ Levels 2 & 3 in Sportsturf, Decorative Horticulture and Hard Landscape. We also offer a range of short courses for the Industry including Health & Safety, pesticide training and chainsaw operation. For more information contact either Alan Brown or John Revis on Tel. no: 01865 351794, Fax No. 01865 358931. Email: alan\_brown@oxfc.ac.uk

## MES



PENCOED COLLEGE, Pencoed, Bridgend, Cardiff CF35 5LG. Tel: 01656 302600. Fax: 01656 302601. Courses:- NVQ Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Levels 1-4, HND in Turf Management in conjunction with the University of Glamorgan. Short Courses - include Presticides Application, Chainsaw Operation, Machinery Maintenance plus many others. Outreach NVQ II & III in the workplace. Pencoed College is conveniently situated between Cardiff and Swansea J35 on the M10.



WELSH COLLEGE OF HORTICULTURE, Northop, Flintshire. Contact Graham Wright. Tel: 01352 841034, Fax: 01352 841031. Email: graham.wright@wcoh.ac.uk, Website: www.wcoh.ac.uk. Full-time - Higher National Deiploma in Turf Management. Part-time - Day release Higher National Certificate in Turf Management. Block Week - NVQ Amenity Sportsturf Levels 2-3. Briefing Days - NVQ Level 4, TDLB Assessor Courses D32, 33, 34. Day Courses - FEPA, Chainsaw Certification, First Aid, C.I.E.H.

## RELAND

GREENMOUNT COLLEGE Greenmount College Antrim BT41 4PU. Contact Declan Gallagher 028 94 426794 Email: declan.gallagher@dardni.gov.uk Website: www.greenmount.ac.uk. Day release courses to (a) GTC Certificate/NVQ Level II Greenkeeping and Sportsturf (b) GTC Certificate/NVQ Level III Golf Course Supervision National Diploma in Horticulture with Turf options FEPA, Health & Safety and a range of short courses.



TEAGASC COLLEGE Teagasc College of Amenity Horticulture, National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, Dublin 9. Contact Pat Sutle. Tel: 00353 16376133. Block release courses in greenkeeping providing Level III Certificates by the National Council of Vocational Awards.

Level III Certificate in Golf Course management, Level II Certificate in Groundsmanship. Further Education Programme also available.

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