

Derbyshire County FA
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info@derbyshirefa.com



"Offering and developing football for all in Derbyshire since 1883"

Date: January 2018

Ref: GOTY2018/KB

Dear Club Secretary,

Re: FA Groundsman of the Year Awards 2017/18, for Clubs Step 7 and Below

Following the success of last season's Groundsman of the Year Awards, please find enclosed a copy of the nomination form and questionnaire for completion, for entry into the 2018 competition. Each County FA will be collating nominations over the next few weeks and will then submit their top 3 applications to The FA, for independent judging as part of The FA National Awards.

The Groundsmen at this level of football are nearly all volunteers who give up hours of their time to provide the best pitches possible using very few resources. This competition is a great way for these volunteers to get recognised on a local and national level whilst also having the opportunity to meet and talk with the professional Groundsmen who conduct the judging.

FA National Summary of 2016/17 Awards

The Awards Day followed in the footsteps of the successful 2017 competition and took place in mid-August at St George's Park. The nominees were given a guided tour of the site as well as an insightful presentation from Karl Standley (Head Groundsman at Wembley Stadium) and also a question and answer workshop with professional groundsmen from Southampton and Manchester City along with Karl from Wembley. The awards ceremony took place in the afternoon with members of The FA Facilities Committee presenting the winners with their certificates and trophies.

The winners were then invited as special guests for the England v Slovenia friendly fixture in October. The winners enjoyed the hospitality on offer before being treated to an opportunity to join the Wembley Ground Staff on the pitch at half time. The feedback received from guests was overwhelmingly positive and we are extremely excited to see what this season brings.

These awards provide a great opportunity to recognise and reward Club Groundsmen at Step 7 and below in Derbyshire. We also have prizes for the top 3 Derbyshire winners from Fleet Line Markers including a Kombi spray marker, drums of Super C and Pitchmarker C paints. There will also be vouchers for the top 3 placed groundsman provided via Derbyshire County FA.

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If you would like to nominate your Groundsman, the closing date for applications is **Thursday 1st March 2018**. Derbyshire County FA will then select their top 3 applications to submit to The Football Association. The first placed Club will then undergo independent judging along with other regions.

Please complete the attached nomination form and questionnaire and return to:

Groundsman of the Year Awards 2018

Derbyshire County FA

8 & 9 Stadium Business Court

Millennium Way

Pride Park

Derby

DE24 8HP

Or alternatively, email to keely.brown@derbyshirefa.com

We look forward to receiving your nominations and would like to thank you for your continued support of the Awards.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Keely Brown', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Keely Brown

Head of Strategy & Facilities