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'HAT TRICK' AT LAST FOR KILLINGHALL MOOR GROUNDSMAN

It's a "hat-trick" at last for the staff of Harrogate Borough Council as they have finally been awarded the National Groundsman of the Year title for the maintenance of the football pitches at Killinghall Moor.

The award was presented to the council's Assistant Community Liaison Officer, Lynne Hallums, at a ceremony in Windsor and is the icing on the cake after winning first place in the Local Authority West Riding and the Local Authority North Region heats for the second time earlier in the year.

"Excellent groundsmen can make all the difference to a facility, said Councillor Pat Jones, Cabinet Member for the Department of Leisure and Amenity Services. "It's not a glamorous job but the work done by those who care for the pitches is vital. At Killinghall Moor pitches, the council has shown its commitment to providing the highest standards at grassroots level and the national award is recognition of that."

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY: Councillor Pat Jones, Cabinet Member for Leisure and Amenity Services will be handing over the award to Ground Maintenance Area Manager, Andrew Soper, at Killinghall Moor – main entrance Barberry Close off Saltergate Drive – at 2.45 pm on Wednesday, 22 September 2004.

FURTHER INFORMATION: Councillor Pat Jones is available for comment on **01423 872466**. Further technical information is available from Mr Patrick Kilburn on **01423 556704**.

NOTE TO EDITORS : Killinghall Moor Country Park cost nearly £1m and was officially opened in July 2000. These sports facilities were the first to be provided in the district for a number of years and they are much valued by the many teams who see Killinghall Moor as their 'home pitch'. The facility includes four full and two junior grass football pitches, a fully accessible pavilion building, eight changing rooms, officials' changing rooms, club room/kitchens and extensive children's play area.

The Groundsman of the Year Awards

Groundsmen are the unsung heroes of the grassroots game. The FA highlights their contribution and encourages their development through The Groundsman of the Year Awards. In 2001 the FA decided it was time to recognise the work done by those groundsmen who work at the game's true grassroots. The FA Groundsman of the Year Awards recognise the effort, with winners receiving an engraved vase, pennant and travel vouchers for a European Break.

The annual award categories are: Nationwide Conference Award; UniBond League Award; Dr Martens League Award; Ryman League Award; National League System (Level 2) Award; National League System (Level 3) Award - for clubs that play on enclosed grounds; and Local Authority Award.