

FENCING NEWS – DECEMBER 2005

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Extract from:
FENCING NEWS
(circ: uncertified)

-- DEC 2005

NEWS IN BRIEF

6371 GUNNERS' GROUNDSMAN HITS THE TARGET!

The Institute of Groundsmanship's 'Professional Football Groundsman of the Year' award for 2005 has been won by Paul Burgess of Arsenal Football Club.

Based on criteria that includes such factors as available resources, presentation and housekeeping standards, technical knowledge and scope of operations, the tightly-contested award matched Paul against David Bricknall of Colchester United, Alan Ferguson of Ipswich Town FC and Cheltenham Town FC's Mike Heather.

The highly-coveted Institute of Groundsmanship award – announced at the IOG SALTEX open space management show at Windsor – is based on the competition open to all groundsmen within the Barclays Premier, Championship and Nationwide Leagues.

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SHOOT MONTHLY

Circulation ('000): 31
Readership ('000): 306
Display Rate (£/sqcm): £4.14

— — DEC 2005



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- Allsports have called in the administrators, which could leave Charlton missing out on a big chunk of their shirt sponsorship fees.
- Arsenal's Paul Burgess is The Institute of Groundsmanship's Professional Football Groundsman of the Year, beating off the challenge of David Bricknall (Colchester), Alan Ferguson (Ipswich) and Cheltenham Town's Mike Heather.
- Vinnie Jones, Ian Wright and Rio Ferdinand were among a host of stars whose recorded messages you can buy for your mobile (www.celebritymessages.com). Rio said: "It's a wicked idea, but I hope that I never get a message saying I've been dumped!"
- Bolton Wanderers defender Tal Ben Haim has revealed he's getting pre-match motivational advice from professional spoon bender Uri Geller.
- Whyte and Mackay have agreed a three-year deal to be the first official sponsors of the Scotland Supporters' Club.
- Jose Mourinho is set to become a national trademark.



Chelsea hope to register their coach's name with the Patent Office, to promote a variety of products.