Callum Long, 17, has to play in the Junior Cup Final. "It was a bit of a surprise to say the least, but luckily I had my golf shoes at the club. Before I knew it, I was in a golf cart heading to the first tee. I still had my work clothes on. It was tiring because I had got up that morning at 5.30am to start work, and because it went to a play-off didn't finish until about 6.30pm, but I knew I had to keep my concentration because it was an important competition. "It just goes to show that maybe you don't need to do too much preparation, my partner and I played some good golf on the day and I was very pleased to help us win the cup." Callum was delighted by his success as was everyone at the club, particularly Course Manager Phil Gates.

Callum beats Long Odds to Triumph

A promising teenage greenkeeper helped his club scoop a coveted trophy – after being called away from repairing a bunker to play a crucial round.

Trainee Callum Long, 17, had to race to the first tee to compete in the St Ives-Junior Cup final after a player dropped out at the last minute. Despite still wearing his work clothes, he held his nerve and played some good golf on the day.

"We were very lucky to gain a late round from one of our members, who attended. Callum, who plays off 12, is currently studying for a diploma in greenkeeping while working at St Ives Golf Club, Cambridgeshire, as part of his work-based training. He said: "I was repairing a bunker when the junior organizer came over to tell me someone had dropped out, and asked if I could come over to tell me someone had dropped out, and asked if I could help his club scoop a coveted trophy."

SOUTH COAST DEFEAT SECRETARIES IN CARE CUP

South Coast Greenkeepers achieved a notable victory in the 16th Annual Course Care Cup. Held at Rushmoor Golf Club, the Wessex Secretaries were keen to reverse last year’s close defeat to the South coast. The match was again hard-fought and extremely close, with the result coming down to the final two holes of the day – and the greenkeepers prevailed, winning by three matches to two.

An excellent meal followed and thanks from all were extended to Highspeed Group for sponsoring the event.

PIC: Highspeed Group’s Area Manager, Paul Dyter is shown presenting the trophy to Tony Gidds, Chairman of BIGGA South Coast Section.

HOME COMFORTS FOR VERULAM

Verulam Golf Club took full advantage of hosting the BIGGA Golf Management Trophy by winning the competition on home turf. The event, sponsored by Ticat, provided an excellent prize table.

The Verulam team of Robin Foster, Chris Carpenter, Don Longarie and Neville Custance triumphed with 85 points. Second place went to Buckingham Golf Club with 81 points, the team included Dave Peggott, Peter Frost, David Barnes and Chris Wilkes. Third place went to John O’Gorman Golf Club with 77 points on count back.

"The course was excellent, a beautiful coastal setting, the true undulating links of the inland parkland greens keepers. "The competition was extremely close, with the result coming down to the final two holes of the day – and the greenkeepers prevailed, winning by three matches to two."

An idea which began over a chat at the last BTME resulted in the first BIGGA golf battle between North and South Wales BIGGA members.

The tournament was played last September at Trefloyne Golf Course and Rhys Butler of Aberdovey Golf Course – and Rhys agreed to host the inaugural event.

"The North Wales team was delighted by his success as was everyone at the club, particularly Course Manager Phil Gates."

"Odds to triumph Callum beats Long Odds to Triumph"