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 to win the cup in a dramatic sudden death play-off.

Callum, who plays off 12, is currently studying for a diploma in greenkeeping while working at St Ives Golf Club, Cambridgeshire, as greenkeeping while working at St Ives. He said: “I was repairing a bunker when the junior organiser came over to tell me someone had dropped out, and asked if I could play in the Junior Cup Final.

“As 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 it 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.

South Coast Greenkeepers achieved a notable victory in the 16th Annual Course Care Cup. Held at Rushmoor Golf Club, the Winners Secretaries were keen to reverse last year’s close defeat in fine weather. 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.

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Face of BIGGA Members

Have you got anything that you think might be of interest to other BIGGA members reading these pages? We are always on the lookout for news, stories and goings-on within our membership.

Attention BIGGA Members

If you are doing something outside of your day-to-day greenkeeping role, let us know about it. Maybe it’s a fun activity or a sponsored run? Please feel free to get in touch with our new Communications Executive, Steve Castle on 01347 833800 ext 510 or email: steve.castle@bigga.co.uk with your news (and photographs!)