Student Greenkeeper of the Year finalists

Name: Nicholas Webber
Age: 35
College: Greenmount Golf Club Portstewart GC
Nicholas is a former professional golfer whose feats include playing all four rounds in the European Open at Sunningdale and winning the Regional Qualifying Round at Camberley Heath for the 1984 Open at St Andrews. He twice just failed to win his Tour card and so reapplied for his amateur status. He was a successful car salesman before deciding to move into green keeping and is currently studying for his Level 2 as well as doing a Distance Learning package for an HNC from Elmwood. He has qualified to represent Northern Ireland in the Hayter International Cup in Atlanta later this month and his handicap is currently 5.

Name: Steven Myres
Age: 34
College: Elmwood Golf Club Glenisla Golf Course
Steven combines his role as greenkeeper at Glenisla with that of Head of Ski Patrol in the area which is one of Scotland’s most popular ski resorts. The course was built by the Glenshee Chairlift Company in 1994 to offer a summer sport and Steven, who has been employed by the company for 12 years, was involved in its construction. He is a 9 handicap golfer and is also a keen squash player and curler as well as a skier.

Name: Gary Gruber
Age: 19
College: Elmwood Golf Club Royal Dornoch Golf Club
Gary has just completed his SVQ Level II and is soon to start his HNC. He is a 4 handicap golfer and is also a former Junior County Champion and Club Champion at Strathearn Spa GC. His love of golf inspired him towards a career in greenkeeping and he has been at Royal Dornoch for two and a half years. He would like to move to an inland course at some stage to add to his greenkeeping knowledge.

Name: Paul Shelley
Age: 29
College: Oaklands Golf Club Cheesfield Downs Golf Club
Paul arrived in greenkeeping following a career change - he had previously worked in the food retail industry. He enrolled in a National Certificate in Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Management course and then did voluntary work at Cheesfield Downs to gain practical experience. A 7 handicap golfer and member of Stevenage GC, Paul’s other interests include football, skiing and travelling.

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Name: Mark Allen
Age: 24
College: Warwickshire College Golf Club: Marriott Forest of Arden - now Fulford Heath
Mark arrived at greenkeeping from the world of crown green bowling (he was part of the '97 British Team Championship winning team) when he took on the role of greenkeeper at a green in the Midlands on a part-time basis - and is still there. Having initially begun studying for a degree in psychology he changed course to turf management and joined the Forest of Arden. He has since worked on some of the top European Tour events held at the course.

Name: Geoff Mills
Age: 41
College: Cannington College Golf Club: Woodbury Park GBCC
Geoff has been the head man at the Nigel Mansell-owned Woodbury Park for eight years and is responsible for the 27 holes as well as the extensive estate lands. He has completed his NVQ Level 3 and is looking forward to moving on to Level 4. He was awarded the Best Student prize at Cannington College. His interests include golf where he has been a 6 handicap - currently 13 - horses, dog training and rugby - he is an ex-Captain of Exmouth Rugby Club. He is also a former National Board of Manager Member of BIGGA

Name: Richard Aitken
Age: 49
College: Myerscough Golf Club: Royal Lytham St Annes Golf Club
Richard has been an assistant at the famous Open venue for 12 years, working under Jimmy MacDonald, and made the decision to throw himself into education late in life. He is currently studying for his NVQ Level III. He has a handicap of 12 and is also a keen photographer.
Over the last fifteen years, greenkeepers and groundsmen have come to rely on good old Super Mosstox.

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North
The Autumn outing at Alford took place in typical weather for this year. We all appreciate if you course was a game at Swanston Go Club just give me a call as you will be welcome, at any other club as well. (Pictures of the Dinner and report can be found in this issue of Greenkeeper International.)

The Autumn outing at Alford took place in typical weather for this year. We all appreciate if you course was a game at Swanston Go Club just give me a call as you will be welcome, at any other club as well. (Pictures of the Dinner and report can be found in this issue of Greenkeeper International.)
was still lost. However, the Steward
with a potato head with grass seed
which has been missing since 1991.
That is their story and
won at Warrington GC on August
when you have to keep making
they are sticking to it.
ilarly the cup fell out and hit him on
at Warrington GC opened a cup-
day was the return of the Cup
phies to be held for 12 months. The
will work hard for next year. Training
is not getting any information to put
mentioned to me already by lain. He
is the "Greenkeepers Vs Golf
appy married life. I am sure the day
with 10am. That's it for now, but
in the magazine. Please give him a
as he must have been hard up
members who let us down the day
1998
and the weather was great as was the
result. Many thanks to Warrington
GC for courtesy of the course which
was in great condition, the golf club
stewards for organising the venue,
and of course Gary Worrall Ground
Care for once again sponsoring the
greenkeepers as Gary has for many
years now.
Before we left I was informed that
Mike Hinch, Managing
or Organiser for Pattissons for sponsoring this
competition for the last 20 years and
especially Mike for joining us on the
day.
I have just been informed that
Thomas Byrne, a retired member
from Ellesmere Port, has passed
away in his seventieth year. Our
thoughts are with his family.
I suppose it is fair to mention
1998
a bottle, so that we all go away
and this is the only chance we
have to keep making things up yourself. Hope the year
has been good to you and you have a
delighted to see you.
Jim Paton
North West
This month (August) the N/W
Section won two magnificent tro-
£10 per person to include food and two games. Places are again limited so send your names and money in as soon as possible. Partners and friends are all welcome.

The only other event left in this year's calendar is the winter golf. This is to be held at Keighley Golf Club on Wednesday, December 9. The Section AGM will follow the golf and meal at approximately 5.30pm. Even if you cannot attend the golf, please try and support the AGM. Congratulations to Jim Brown on his new appointment as Head Greenkeeper at Cookridge Hall GC. Jim moved from Crow Nest Park in Brighouse, where I believe Bob Gee is taking over.

Anyone with any news from within the Section please contact me at 1 Cockley Meadows, Kirkheaton, Huddersfield, HD5 0LA or phone on either 01484-317813 or 0411-601420. Simon Heppenstall

Cleveland

Graham Boarder, Course Manager at Castle Eden Golf Club, won the Durham match played at Billingham plus he has been picked for the county. Good luck.

If I am to keep putting a news letter in to the magazine I must have something to write about. Please if you have any news do let me know. Kevin (Scoop) Heslop

It can drive its 6" tines, solid or hollow, at a faster rate than any other aerator, which makes it the perfect machine for high speed runs down the fairway and for even shorter work on the greens.

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Charterhouse Turf Machinery Ltd, Weydown Industrial Estate, Weydown Road, Haslemere, Surrey, GU27 1DW. Tel: 01428 661222. Fax: 01428 661218.
Keeping in touch with news and comment from the Sections

Midland

Firstly, I would like to thank everybody on behalf of the Section who attended the funeral service for Trafford Stonebridge. There was great support from many greenkeepers on this very sad day and this goes to show what great respect and appreciation Trafford had within the greenkeeping industry.

On a lighter note I would like to congratulate Paul Woodham on his recent wedding announcement and all the best for your future together.

As a committee we have decided to cancel the proposed trip to Turnberry until the spring of '99 because there has been insufficient interest in the trip.

The Autumn tournament will have been played at Edgbaston by the time you read this report so I will give you all the results in my next report. The same will happen with the results of the Rigby Taylor doubles which is also due to be completed in the next few months.

With winter fast approaching can I remind you that you need to get your entries in early for the Christmas tournament which is to be played at Aldwark Manor over the years to attend various courses will be pleased to note that the much awaited Headquarters of the Association will be officially opening at the end of this month. This is a huge step forward for the Association and we as members are indebted to those people who have pushed this project through, I for one look forward to my first visit to the Official Opening.

The next event in the Section is the Turkey Trot and AGM which will be held at Whiteleaf on November 26. I hope for once the weather is kind to all competitors.

Entry forms will be posted soon. Please ensure that your membership is up-to-date, as the mailing list comes directly from HQ.

Finally, I would like to introduce you to some more new members - Daniel Jones, Jamie Wilson, Jamie Griffin and Mark Allen.

Jonathan Wood

East Anglia

Fifty odd members turned up at the Norfolk in August. Not 50 odd members well not all of them. Perhaps 50 plus members sounds better. Not that they are over 50 years old just more than 50 in number. Anyway there was a lot and a jolly good time we had too, thank you. The whole thing went like clockwork only it was a long clock four and a half rounds in searing Norfolk heat. Luvly Bubbly There is a new old face there now. The gaffer at the Norfolk is Michael Peters, good to see him doing his stuff. Our thanks to him and his men on presenting a good course for us to hack up.

The Harry Hacker score board is as follows; Overall winner was Greg McHugh (Allas John Wayne) 40 Points. 0-9 cat; 1. R. Writing, 35pts; 2. A. Carter, 34pts; 3. A. Kirwan, 33pts. 0-18 cat; 1. G. McHugh, 40pts; 2. G. Bird, 36pts; 3. G. Nash, 35pts. 19-28 cat; 1. D. Farrington, 30pts; 2. D. Ireson, 30pts; 3. T. Russell, 29pts. Guest/Trade; 1. T. Reynolds, 38pts; 2. I. Earl, 34pts; 3. K. Timms, 33pts. Bringing up the rear so to speak A Arbon whose name is added to the toilet seat. Prizes were donated by Rhône-Polenc (Main Sponsors), TORO, SISIS, Rigby Taylor, Moorfoot Ltd and one of the guests, Mr Reynolds, donated a Toyota jacket. The prizes were presented by the Club Captain, Mr Fletcher.

Our thanks to Ian, Brian and the BBC for seeing after us and thanks to all at the Norfolk for a splendid day.

Mick Lathrope

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46 Greenkeeper International October 1998
East Midlands
This year's AGM will take place at Lutterworth G.C. on November 12 at 4.30pm all members should have received their letters, if you have not please contact me and I will send you your form. This year's Section golf match against the East of England Section as held on August 20 courtesy of Oundle G.C. After a very hard fought match in difficult windy conditions, the East of England Section were victorious by 3 games to 2.

Some consolation for the section was John Barr winning nearest the pin on the 3rd and Mark Bindley and Frank Kempster winning by the highest margin of 7 and 6. Congratulations should go to the East of England section. The Section was represented by the following members, Jeff Dickinson, Gary Thurman, Ian Needham, Antony Bindley, Jamie Bedford, Rob Wall, Jonathan Barr, Frank Kempster and Mark Bindley. I would like to thank Oundle G.C. for allowing us courtesy of their testing course. Thanks also to Jim Carr, of Chandlers, for sponsoring the event and Leigh Siddon, Tim Russell, 31pts 3. Steve Davidson, 32pts; 19-25, 1. Tony Tyrrell, 34pts 2.

East of England
The annual match for the Toro Shield between the East of England Section and the East Midlands Section took place at Oundle Golf Club. The result was 3 - 2 to the home section (EDE). Thanks to Gary Nimmo and staff for presenting the course in good condition, especially having just tidied the greens a couple of days before our match. An excellent meal was had and I would like to thank Oundle G.C. for allowing us courtesy of their testing course. Thanks also to Jim Carr, of Chandlers, for sponsoring the event and Leigh Siddon, Willmott Pertwee, and Duncan Beale, Greeps, for donating some raffle prizes. Nearest the pin went to John Sinclair, of Kedleston (EOE). Thanks to Gary Nimmo and their staff, Kevin Long, Head Greenkeeper and green staff, for having the course in excellent condition, Neill Peachey for his hard work and P. Tuckwell Ltd for sponsoring the event and donating the trophy. To the following trade for their support, Consult Clarkson, The Greenkeeping Supply Company, Rigby Taylor, Willmott Pertwee and Grass Roots Trading.

Next year's Autumn Tournament will be held at Erewash Valley on September 6.

Antony Bindley

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Essex

The Essex Section held a golf day at Thorpe Hall Golf Club on August 7. The main sponsors were Rigby Taylor. Thanks to the club and John Sinclair for getting the course ready for the day. Thank you to the Manager for his help in presenting the prizes and the prizes were; Trade, Dennis Smith, 35pts; Guest, Mick Curran, 40pts. 0-9 handicaps, 1. Jeff Robinson, 40pts; 2. Steve Croadale, 35pts; 3. Andy Toomey, 34pts. 10-18 handicaps, 1. Richard Dunmow, 36pts, 2. Greg McHugh, 34pts; 3. Ray Clark, 32pts; 19-28, 1. Tony Tyrrell, 34pts 2. Tim Russell, 31pts 3. Steve Davidson, 29pts; Trade, Neil Peachey, 38pts; Guest, Richard Watson, 35pts. Longest Drive, Antony Kirwin, Sponsored by P. Tuckwell; Nearest Pin 7th, Steve Townsend, Sponsored by P. Tuckwell; Nearest Pin 18th, Graham Millbank, Sponsored by Consultant Clarkson.

Would like to take this opportunity to thank Stoke By Nayland G.C. and their staff, Kevin King, Head Greenkeeper and green staff, for having the course in excellent condition,

Neil Peachey for his hard work and P. Tuckwell Ltd for sponsoring the event and donating the trophy. To the following trade for their support, Consult Clarkson, The Greenkeeping Supply Company, Rigby Taylor, Willmott Pertwee and Grass Roots Trading. Next year's match, 1999, has been pencilled in for Lakesheath USAF Base, so the Essex boys can regain revenge. I would like to thank Dominic Rodgers and Steve Townsend for helping me on the day.

Michael Fance
London
The Autumn Tournament for the London Section was this year host-
ed with the kind permission of Brookmans Park Golf Club. During a
period of changeable weather, we were lucky to have a warm, dry
day, and the tee times started at 2.30pm.
The course was in excellent con-
dition and although one of the two
lakes on the course is in the process
of being dredged, there was no
noticeable interruption to the golf.
The first lake was dredged in 1976
and work on the second started on
August 10 this year. Approximately
half a million gallons of water had
to be drained before removal of the
silt could start and an estimated
6000 cubic metres will have been
moved over a period of 15-16 days.
The project has been handled by
Roy Jones, the Course Manager, and his Staff
with the kind permission of
Vic Wagland Contractors, with all
the spoil dumped and levelled on
an area of waste ground between
the two lakes.
Some tree surgery will take place
on the mature woodland surround-
ing the lake to try and reduce leaf
drop into the refurbished area. The
next project immediately following
the lake will be a reconstruction of
the two lakes.

Northants & Peterborough
The overall winner of the
Stableford was Ian Semple, of Old
Fold Manor, with 38 points with
Kenny (plus two) Mackay, of
Hanbury Manor, a close second on
37 points and A. Pipe, one point
further back on 36 points in 3rd.
Ian put together a round that
included seven Birdies and reversed
July’s results at The
Buckinghamshire, by piping Kenny
to the post. Nearest the pin was
sponsored by Willmot Pertwee and
in the absence of Mark Pyrah, who
had to leave early, Ian Semple was
called on to say a few words and
present the prizes. Results: 1. Ian
Semple; 2. Roger Mace; 3. Craig
Handyside. The trade were pretty
disappointing again, as no-one
managed to hit the Green! Come
on Clive! Thanks again to Willmot
Pertwee who sponsored the postage
and the Autumn Series’ day at
Sussex
Firstly let me apologise for a mis-
print in the account of the Sussex
Section’s day at Slinfold Park. The
sponsors were Scatts Agricultural
Machines! Now on to the last day
at Mannings Heath Golf and
Country Club, where we played the
Waterfall Course in the morning and
the newer Kingfisher Course in
the afternoon.
Those Greenkeepers who know
Mannings Heath and with the
prospect of 36 holes in heat wave
conditions very sensibly booked
buggies for the day. The morning
round over Mountain Goat country
was an extreme test of golf with
some very intimidating tee-shots. A
round over Mountain Goat country
would be an extreme test of golf with
some very intimidating tee-shots.

Thursday’s rain brought a
prospect of 36 holes in heat wave
conditions very sensibly booked
buggies for the day. The morning
round over Mountain Goat country
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some very intimidating tee-shots. A
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of these courses.
The morning was sponsored by Farmura, represented on the day by Bob Cook, who provided some great prizes. Results: Category 1. 1. Shaun Sturrock; 2. Ray Day; Category 2. 1. Stefan Antolick; 2. Les Shrubbs; Category 3. 1. John Budd; 2. Carl Whyborne; Winner, Tony Englefield; Nearest the Pin, Winner, Roland Hughes; Longest Drive, Winner, Peter Beardsmore.

For those without buggies and could make the long climb from the 18th green to the magnificent Clubhouse a superb lunch was made available and with sufficient liquid replacement taken on board the Section tackled the equally daunting Kingfisher Course, remarkably mature considering its newness and beautifully prepared by Michael Leggett. The afternoon was sponsored by Pattissons represented by Brian Willmott who provided the prizes. Results: 1. Tony Bremer, 2. John Budd, 3. Ronan McKeown; Trade and Guests, 1. Phil Grave, 2. Damion Simpson; Longest Drive, Ray Day; Nearest the Pin, Ronan McKeown.

I should add that for those who weren't lucky enough to have won anything or clever enough to have pre-booked a buggy the highlight of the day was probably the magnificent Steam Room and Power Showers that enabled us to feel at least a little less than exhausted and able to drag ourselves to the dining room for the evening meal, the quality of which as well as the two golf courses, is a trademark of Mannings Heath.

Derek Farrington
Surrey

Welcome back to all of you who have had a holiday in August or September and to those who have decided to take a late break in October and November please have a really great time.

As you may have guessed there is very little to write about at the moment except to remind all that as Bert Watson has at last said bon voyage to his son James. Anyone looking for good cheap digs should contact Bert ASAP. By the time you read this Surrey section will have played for the Parker Salva at Reigate Heath Golf Club and will be looking forward to the Autumn Tournament at the Drift Golf Club on October 15. The results of both will appear in the November edition. Good news for Andy Pullen, North Hants Golf Club, whose wife Michelle recently gave birth to a bonny daughter and to whom they have given the unusual but charming name Amber. From joy to sadness. Dave Doldenfield's wife died recently after a long illness and all from Surrey Section send their deepest sympathy.

Brian Willmott
South Coast

By now you should have received the details for our Regional Seminar at Cannington, on November 25, 1998. To refresh your memories, Ian McMillan will be talking on his "Achievements at Hankley Common". John Mullins, of Superturf, will be talking on "Water Management". We then have Frank Newbury who will be telling us "How to make the Committee work for you".

After lunch, Phil Greenaway, from Rolleys, will inform us about "What goes on Top". We then have Dave Phillips, of Monmorestee, on "Seed Selection and its Implications". To round off the day, Frank Newbury will be giving one of his not to be missed Workshops. As you can see a very good selection of speakers has been organised for you.

If you have not received your programme, contact our Regional Administrator; Paula Humphries, Truants Cottage, Zeal Monachorum, Credon, Devon, EX17 6DF; Tel 01363 82777. For those of you who have made up your mind to attend, Paula requires your name, Club/Company, address and telephone number.

Oh yes, and a cheque made out to BIGGA South West and South Wales Region for £15 for members and £22 for non members.

There is something for everyone at this Seminar, so get those applications in as soon as possible.
Keeping in touch with news and comment from the Sections

Each month is getting nearer to BTME. Don't go leaving your bookings to the last minute. If you do, you may be unlucky, as the coaches will be fully booked. Also Paula needs your names so that she can organise the accommodation. Remember a coach will be running from the South Coast. So get your names and deposits into Paula as soon as possible. Any queries don't hesitate to phone any of your committee members or Paula. We can then point you in the right direction.

As I am sure you are all aware the year 2000 is the start of another century "The Millennium". I would like you all to think about what we can do to celebrate the Millennium. So get your thinking caps on and let us have some ideas. Your committee has been discussing the subject, but we would like to hear from you the members with your suggestions. Ken Lodge

Devon & Cornwall

The Devon Garden Machinery meeting and Section AGM will be held at Landhydrock Golf Club, on Wednesday, November 11. The morning's golf will be of foursome format for the Toro Trophy with the prizes being kindly donated by Devon Garden Machinery and Lily. As usual the non golfer's course walk will leave the club house at approximately 10.30am, lunch will be from 1pm onwards followed by the golf presentation and a short company presentation by Devon Garden Machinery our sponsor for the day. The Section's AGM will conclude the day. I would like to remind you that the Region's annual seminar will be held at Cannington College on Wednesday November 25. Also, you should all have received details of the Region's package to Harrogate for the BTME show & seminar at the very low price of £95 per member, if you haven't already booked your place for the seminar of BTME package and wish to attend, please contact our Region Administrator Paula Humphries on 01206 82777 to reserve any places remaining.

Richard Whyman

South West

Not too much to report on this month. I hope you have all had a good summer of mowing. At least the irrigation system has not required too much maintenance. Looking ahead, we have the Autumn Tournament and AGM at the resplendent Saltford Golf Club. Please, please try and make this one if you can so as we can get a representative sample of the membership for voting purposes.

Salford, under the expert hands of Ian McFarlane and his team, will I am sure be in excellent condition and the course itself is a delightful parkland layout reminiscent of Augusta. But (if you) have thought about the flowers, or water, or white sand.

Remember also the Southwest seminar at Cannington. This will take place on November 25 and promises to be very informative and with speakers of the quality of Frank Newberry and Ian McMillan it should also be very enjoyable. If anyone you think should attend then please give Paula a ring; we need to see as many faces as possible for this one.

Now is the time when we may have a little bit of time on our hands and so please give a thought to the courses that the Section can run. There are a few people ready for a refresher first aid course, so if you think you may be one or would like to take it for the first time then please give me a ring on 01380 828380 and I will arrange everything for you. In addition we can arrange for spraying courses and chainsaw courses if required.

Talking of chainsaw courses, I recently had an enquiry on the setting up of a course on advanced chainsaw use, such as tree climbing and felling of larger diameter trees. Having made enquiries at colleges I was informed by the experts that unless you are involved in this work full time it is not worth taking the course as without constant practice in these techniques the skills that are gained in the course would be quickly lost. So the general advice would appear to be if in doubt, get the experts in.

If anyone has any information on the Section; appointments, weddings, new babies etc, then please, please let me know about them so as I can get them in this slot to keep everyone informed. For instance I recently read in he BB&O section of the impending retirement of my old friend John Nudds, from Gerrards Cross GC. John, a former BB&O county captain, was one of the old school, five minutes of water a week in a drought and one application of 8-0-0 a year. Marvellous, and he ended up with some of the best putting surfaces you can get. You couldn't pitch on the greens but the surfaces were superb.

Marc Haring

North East

We were very disappointed by the number who attended our AGM at Allen Park at the end of August. A lot of time and effort by committee members went into organising this event. Members did not even take the time to fill in a small slip of paper out of common courtesy to say whether or not they were going to attend. This is no way for us to try and organise events. It's about time the members in Northern Ireland showed some consideration.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank those who took the time and effort to attend our AGM and golf competition at Allen Park, also to Allen Park for the use of their facilities. Members will be asked to come along twice yearly to a meeting in which they will be able to participate in a feed-back session, they will have a chance to have some input into what events they would like to see taking place.

If anyone has any ideas or there is something in particular they would like to see taking place please feel free to phone on 01574 276001. Members are reminded that they must not turn up at committee meetings to participate in committee decisions.

Eamonn Farrell

South East

BIGGA are holding a workshop seminar on November 24 & 25, on Golf Course Design, Construction and Establishment, based on successful projects in the past including some fascinating projects in Northern Ireland. The seminar will be held in the Burndale Hotel, Newcastle, (Co Down), for two days including all meals and one night’s accommodation with full use of hotel facilities. The information will be beneficial and of interest to a lot of us and we would encourage members from both sections to attend. For more details on the seminar contact BIGGA Education and Training or contact our Chairman, Graham Wylie at Malone Golf Club.

Jonathan McCabe

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