

Greenkeeping in leading prize winners for Groundsmen of the Year.

The Institute of Groundsmanship has announced the name of the winner of its 1986 Groundsman of the Year Competition. He is **John Warner**, Grounds Supervisor with the London Borough of Merton.

The winner of the Young Groundsman of the Year title is **Wayne Nash**, a groundsman for the British Steel Corporation in Ebbw Vale.

The two runners-up are **Laurence Pithie**, Golf Course Manager at Minchinhampton Golf Club in the first category, and **Colin Bell**, a student at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh, in the second. Both win a golfing weekend at Gleneagles.

This is the sixth time that the IOG has organised this annual competition which is open to everyone involved directly in the practical maintenance of sports and leisure turf culture facilities.

Sponsored this year by Scottish Agricultural Industries PLC, and

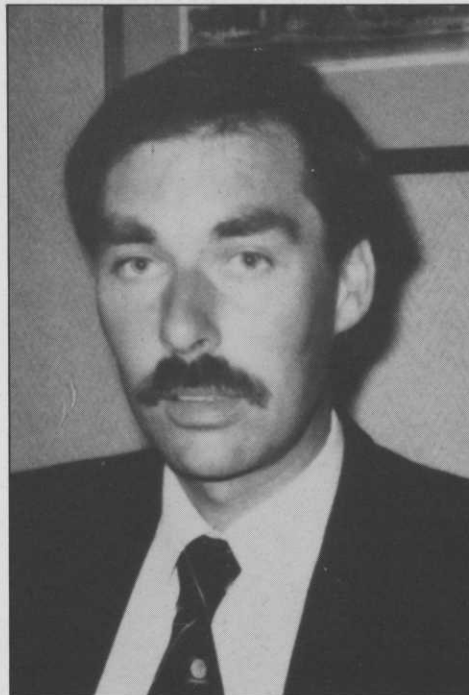
supported by **Golf Greenkeeping Magazine**, the competition attracted almost 1,000 entries from groundsmen, green-keepers, parks officers, gardeners, local authority maintenance staff, contractors, playing fields officers, trainees and student throughout the U.K.

Entrants were required to complete a questionnaire on various aspects of turf culture; write a brief paper describing their work in groundsmanship; complete a promotional slogan for SAI's 'Longlife' turf treatment; and attend a series of interviews with a panel of eminent judges.

The two winners of the contest will receive as their top prize and all-expenses paid visit to Phoenix, Arizona, to attend the 1987 American Golf Greenkeepers annual convention.

Between them, winners, runners-up and finalists share £3,000-worth of prizes, including Stewart Crystal trophies and education and training awards.

Special prizes are also being made to the colleges that submitted the highest number of student entries. The winner is The Cheshire College of Agriculture & Horticulture, which receives £400-worth of Longlife products, and the runner-up, The Lancashire College of Agriculture & Horticulture, receives £100-worth of Longlife products.



LAURENCE PITHIE
(Runner Up)
Groundsman of the Year 1986

Runner-up Laurence Pithie who lives at Tetbury, Gloucestershire, is Golf Course Manager at Minchinhampton Golf Club, which makes him Princess Anne's neighbour. There are two courses in his charge - and each has to be cared for in a different way.

The old course was established on common land in 1889, the new course was built in 1975. The National Trust and the Nature Conservancy Council impose strict rules on the maintenance of the old course, particularly regarding pesticides and other modern chemicals, and a problem also arises from grazing cattle.

A member of both the British Golf Greenkeepers and the English and International Golf Greenkeepers Associations, Laurence Pithie is a former winner of a similar competition during which he visited the western coast of the United States and Las Vegas.

Married, he has two young boys and in his spare time plays badminton with a local club.

In fourth place as Young Groundsman of the Year is Wayne Roberts.

Wayne, who is 19 and lives in Fearnhead, Cheshire, is an assistant Greenkeeper at Poulton Park Golf Club. He has completed the first year of a two-year course on greenkeeping at Reaseheath, and is a member of the British Golf Greenkeeper Association, North-West Section.

Trevor Dennis (20) in fifth place is a trainee apprentice Greenkeeper at King's Lynn Golf Club where he has worked for the past four years since leaving school.



JOHN WARNER (Winner) - Groundsman of the Year 1986