

One step away from GREENKEEPER OF THE YEAR



Professional Products

ICI Professional Products, described on numerous occasions as 'that close and caring organisation', are again demonstrating just how close and caring they can be by their continued support and guidance in sponsoring again the 1992 ICI Premier Greenkeeper of The Year awards.

ICI Professional Products means different things to different people: to the working greenkeeper it means technical superiority, professionalism and innovation in the fine turf care field, whilst to golfing greenkeepers it also represents that most exciting of golf events, the ICI sponsored BIGGA National Tournament.

All these, massive and hugely successful though they are, pale into insignificance for the two previous winners of the ICI Premier Greenkeeper of The Year award, Anthony Davies and David Whitaker, who will tell all who care to listen that winning the ICI Premier Greenkeeper award literally changed their lives. Each will relay stories of personal satisfaction and progression in their already rising careers, stories of achievement, pleasure and pride that are guaranteed to quicken the pulse of the candidates here listed.

By a process of elimination the five finalists have already leapt the first hurdle, but they will remain on tenterhooks until December, when a select panel of judges will meet at Aldwark Manor to grill them further - this before announcing one proud greenkeeper as 'The Winner'. It will all seem hugely worthwhile, for the ICI Premier Greenkeeper of 1992 will join the BIGGA trip to the GCSAA Exhibition and Conference in America's Anaheim and San Diego in January 1993. For the runner-up there will be a 'swanky' week-end for two in London, tickets to a major golf tournament and seats for a West End show; with for third place a weekend for two at Old Lord Walsingham's place, the delicious Aldwark Manor. For all five contestants it will be a time to remember - with great pride - forever.



Iain McLeod



Kevin Green



Iain McMillan



Iain Harrison



Dean Cleaver

THE CANDIDATES

IAIN McLEOD

Iain is currently head greenkeeper at Tain Golf Club on the southern shores of the Dornoch Firth in North Scotland, a post he has held since 1978. He is also the North Scotland section secretary and is married with three children. He started his greenkeeping career at Nairn in 1973 and after a two year spell in Coventry at the Grange Golf Club, where at Tile Hill College of Further Education he sat his Grass and Greenkeeping UEI Examination and achieved a first class pass, he returned to the North of Scotland to a job at Tain. He is a firm believer in education, attending seminars and workshops whenever possible, and is currently trying to find the time to work through the Accreditation of Prior Learning Modules at Elmwood College, Fife.

A keen golfer playing off a three handicap, he has represented the Association in the Kubota, Jacobsen and Ransome finals, with proof of his golfing prowess indicated by his winning the Head Greenkeeper's Trophy at the Scottish Championships three times since 1983. He works very closely with his committee at Tain, serving on both the green committee and the finance and general purpose sub-committee.

Iain has been an active member of the BGGGA, SIGGA and now BIGGA since 1974. He has also been a member of the BIGGA support team at The Open since 1984.

KEVIN GREEN

Kevin became interested in turf management whilst working with the turf department at the Royal Horticultural Society, Wisley, studying for the Wisley Diploma. On completion he was awarded Best Overall Student for the course and also gained City & Guilds, including Turf Management stages I & II.

Having spent some time at Royal Mid Surrey Golf Club, this before being offered a position at Wentworth Golf Club, he spent six years working mostly on the West Course and being involved in the course preparation for major tournaments, including the PGA Whyte & Mackay and Suntory World Matchplay Championship.

He has held the working head greenkeeper's position at Filton Golf Club for nearly five years. This north Bristol parkland course is situated on heavy clay, hence the need for great emphasis on compaction relief and aeration to counteract the effects of over 55,000 rounds annually. In the last year he has been involved in overseeing an interesting project to obtain a private water supply for both irrigation and aesthetic purposes. This involved drilling a bore hole, which now feeds two excavated lakes.

He is an active member of BIGGA in the South West region and as a long term aim would like to hold the position of course manager on a course hosting a major PGA event.

IAN McMILLAN

There can be few greenkeepers who are unaware of the illustrious name of McMillan in the field of greenkeeping, for Ian's father, Jack, latterly course manager of Sunningdale and now a highly respected turfgrass consultant, has earned and enjoyed a reputation that is second to none. Like father, like son is a term that can certainly be applied to Ian, for he has been in greenkeeping since leaving school some 15 years ago, 11 of those years as head greenkeeper and latterly as course manager at Hankley Common, one of Surrey's most prestigious courses. Prior to Hankley Common, Ian was head greenkeeper at Finchley Golf Club for two years and before

moving to Finchley he was head greenkeeper at Datchet, having served his apprenticeship under his father's watchful eye at Bush Hill Park in North London.

A strong supporter of BIGGA and its objectives, Ian has spent six years serving on greenkeeping committees, finishing as chairman of the Surrey section.

In his leisure time he enjoys being with his family, Callum aged three and Hanah aged one, and playing golf when time allows.

IAN HARRISON

Ask Ian Harrison for his views on golf course architecture and he will wax poetic on the delights of Darlington Golf Club, a delightful parkland course designed by that doyen of all architects, Dr Alistair Mackenzie, who he regards as some sort of hero. Pride springs to mind as the overriding aspect of his maintenance of Mackenzie's fine course, which enjoys distant views east to the Cleveland Hills and views west to the Pennines, and he nurtures the 90 acre course and nine acre practice facility as though both were precious antique gems.

Ian began his greenkeeping career as an apprentice in 1978 and in 1980 became the first assistant at Darlington, working at different times under the wing of two course managers with very different approaches to perfection. One, an old Scottish traditionalist, taught Ian how to respect nature and the tried and tested methods of generations past, whilst the second brought modern greenkeeping philosophies to the fore and provided Ian with an excellent contrast upon which to base his own style and management techniques. He was rewarded by being made Darlington's course manager in 1984.

Educated at Durham Agricultural College, Ian earned his City & Guilds Greenkeeping Management Certificate with a Distinction, following this with regular attendance at BIGGA management courses during 1989-1991. Married, with two children, Ian enjoys spending his leisure time with his family, but still finds time to play golf.

DEAN CLEAVER

Thirty four year old Dean Cleaver couldn't have chosen a better place to start his career in greenkeeping than The Leicestershire Golf Club, for in 1974 he came immediately under the care of course manager Paddy McCarron, latterly chairman of BIGGA and a hugely talented exponent of the art of greenkeeping. Well taught and primed for further exploration into the management field, he joined Rugby Golf Club in 1978, still only 21, as a head greenkeeper and enjoyed caring for this course and his members needs for some nine years.

In 1987 he moved to Stratford Golf Club for a further five years before joining his present club, Gay Hill Golf Club, as their course manager. In his own words, 'a challenging period lies ahead'.

During his time in greenkeeping Dean has always been a firm supporter of the Association and he has in turn been both treasurer and chairman of the East Midland section, and is presently secretary of the Midland section, which boasts some 240 members.

That he also believes in the value of education for greenkeepers is indicated by his being regional education chairman, and it is in this important sector that he gains most satisfaction.

Married and with two children, Dean lives in the small town of Alcester on the edge of the Cotswolds and his interests are playing and watching golf, the former to a handicap of fifteen.