

André Woodings



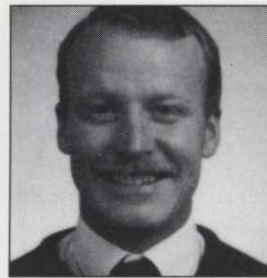
Ian Whitehead



Paul Brannan



Matthew Horton



Mark Anderson

America awaits



Candidature for the Toro/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year is surely the dream of every student greenkeeper, for the winning of such a coveted award can quite literally open doors and is often a stepping stone to wondrous career possibilities. Over the years many such candidates, the cream of the crop at their respective colleges, have progressed to positions of importance at famous locations.

Though there can be but one winner, each candidate can feel justly proud at having forged his

way through to this final. Selection alone denotes excellence - in written college work; in observation; in grasping and mastering practical skills and, above all, in being the chosen ambassador for their college.

One such ambassador will be rewarded with the title of Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year, the accolade winging him across the Atlantic to enjoy a Toro sponsored expenses paid visit to the USA, along with residential student membership of the Winter School for Turf Grass Managers at the Uni-

versity of Massachusetts. Previous winners have said they learned more in six weeks than they could possibly have imagined.

Learning the intricacies of tournament course management and set-up will be the prize for two others, who will accompany the PGA European Tour's support team at two specially selected Tour events in 1993.

Following panel interviews at Aldwark Manor on October 12th, results and photographs will be published in the November issue of Greenkeeper International.

THE CANDIDATES

André Woodings - nominated by Reaseheath College

Thirty year old André may well be considered a mature student, for he has been involved in green-keeping for 14 years, working his way steadily up from humble beginner through assistant greenkeeper to his present task as head greenkeeper at Rothley Park, a position he has held for the past two years. Under his direction, Rothley Park has, in the opinion of members, gone from strength to strength. He considers this his greatest achievement and is proud that his course has been chosen as the venue for the IMS Championships in 1993.

For over 12 years André relied on practical experience alone before the lure of education finally took him to Reaseheath (on block release) and a course in Greenkeeping Management. His future aspirations lean toward achieving Master Greenkeeper Certification. Course tutor, Denis Mortram speaks highly of his practical skills and of his determination to succeed. In summary, Denis is sure that André's nomination will uphold the traditions of previous nominees.

Ian Whitehead - nominated by Askham Bryan College

Twenty two year old Ian has been a greenkeeper for seven

years, entering the profession as a YTS trainee and working now as first assistant to the talented Gordon Brammah at Hallamshire Golf Club. His chosen college course, City & Guilds Phase II in Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Management, has meant considerable travelling from his home in Sheffield to Askham Bryan, but the discipline has clearly been worth while.

Quite apart from academic successes achieved thus far; Ian is not content to rest on his laurels. His immediate plans include taking supervision and management modules at Askham Bryan, this as part of a planned career path that will lead to his becoming a head greenkeeper.

On the golfing front, Ian is well known in Sheffield circles as a solid nine handicap player who on four occasions has taken top honours in section tournaments. He has twice qualified for the Iseki finals.

Paul Brannan - nominated by Langside College

In telling us about Paul, college tutor Colin Urquhart wrote "Paul has entered greenkeeping after completing a three year craft level apprenticeship and training in Amenity Horticulture. Since Glasgow District Council Leisure and Recreation Services bestowed

upon him the honour of helping to care for and maintain the city's municipal golf courses, Paul has returned to the School of Horticulture determined to prove that he is as good a greenkeeper as he is a horticulturalist.

"His diligence and quiet but positive manner brings an assured, competent air to all the challenges of college and superb SNC results prove his genuine abilities in his chosen field. Paul's mature, friendly ways make him a popular student with both college staff and his student greenkeeper peers. Paul intends to further his academic career in our new HNC in Golf Course Management".

On a practical front, Paul has recently spent time learning of the installation and control functions of an automatic irrigation system and is involved in building a new green. Though only twenty, his long term aspirations lean toward managing a championship golf course and at some point becoming involved in course architecture.

Matthew Horton - nominated by the Welsh College of Horticulture

Twenty three year old Matthew has just gained promotion to head greenkeeper at Builth Wells GC, well deserved when one considers his splendid academic achieve-

ments. He began his career as an apprentice groundsman, during which he sat C&G Phases I&II in General Horticulture. This was followed with a one year NCH in Amenity and Landscape at Pershore College, resulting in a pass with distinction.

Moving to Builth Wells in 1984, he became an assistant greenkeeper and attended the Welsh College to sit C&G in Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Phase II - he finished as top student in both years! Promoted to head greenkeeper this year, he now plans to sit Phase III Management and, when qualified, would eventually like to work abroad.

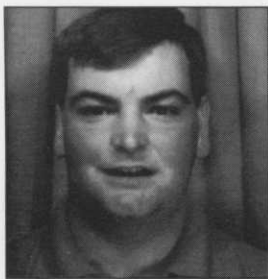
His college tutor, Graham Wright, wrote in glowing terms of Matthew's rapid progress, a feeling shared by Matthew's club secretary and chairman of green. Graham is particularly pleased that Builth Wells are responding to the advances within the golf industry, eager to be in the forefront of golf provision in Wales. As he rightly asserts, should Matthew become Student greenkeeper of the Year, it will make Welsh clubs sit up and take note of 'The Way Forward'.

Mark Anderson - nominated by Sparsholt College

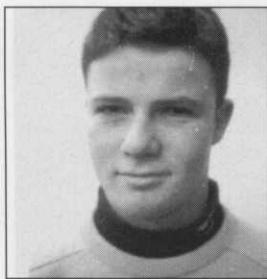
Well could tell by the comments of Sparsholt's tutor, Bob Young,



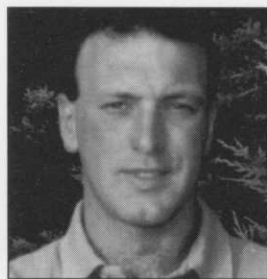
Andrew Nice



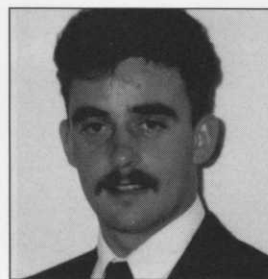
Barry Neville



Martin O'Rawe



Anthony Gooch



Adrian Porter



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that he holds thirty one year old Mark in high esteem. From a career which began as a young entrant in the Army, one which took him to Central America, Germany and Northern Ireland, Mark had the misfortune to be disabled in a training accident and he was invalided out of the Army in 1985.

New career training began with a spell at St Loyes College for the Disabled, studying horticulture, followed by rewarding work experience on a golf course. Though there were to be other work experience sorties it was in golf that Mark found his forte - and he joined Broadstone GC as a trainee greenkeeper.

Bob Young told Greenkeeper International that Mark meets every criteria for his deserved nomination, which came from both peers and tutors alike. He has worked hard to complete his Phase II Greenkeeping and now plans to progress to Phase III Greenkeeping Supervision.

Mark, now an assistant greenkeeper at Broadstone, is dedicated to his new career and is a highly respected member of the club's professional team. He is a 'dab hand' with a shotgun, having won several trophies for clay pigeon shooting.

Andrew Nice - nominated by Plumpton College

Thirty year old Andrew is now supplementing a wealth of practical experience acquired at three golf clubs with the off-the-job training he is obtaining at Plumpton. His position as first assistant at Fernwell easily allows him to pass on his acquired know-how to others on the workforce - an experience he is savouring.

Course tutor David Blackmur told us that Andrew has a real thirst for knowledge and that coming straight onto the Phase II option proved no stumbling ground whatsoever. Andrew is

looking forward to continuing the learning process next year with the Phase III course and, in David's words, is a thoroughly deserving student to take the mantle as Plumpton's chosen representative.

Andrew joined his present club as first assistant and was delighted when they willingly sponsored his college entry - "to provide me with a theoretic base to back up my practical experience" - as he put it. Undoubtedly his college course has brought him one step nearer to his ambition of becoming a head greenkeeper.

Andrew enjoys running and has competed in several half marathons - no doubt he will don tracksuit and sneakers for early morning sessions at Aldwark Manor!

Barry Neville - nominated by Oaklands College

Barry began his golf career in 1987 whilst still at school studying for A levels. The golf centre where he now works as an assistant greenkeeper did not exist when he commenced his part time work, though he thoroughly enjoyed the involvement of construction work on land that hitherto had been nothing more than arable farmland.

After gaining eight O levels and two A levels he went to Polytechnic, but soon found the outdoor life more to his liking and began full-time employment at the golf centre, which now boasts a complementary 18 hole golf course.

After just one year at the 25 bay golf centre Barry decided that his particular way forward was to become fully qualified and he wisely opted for a course at Oaklands, where he has just completed Phase II Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Management. Not content to rest on his laurels, he will continue studying next year, taking a Business Management

course as the next stage to his ultimate aim, one of becoming a head greenkeeper at a top class golf course.

Barry, now 22, enjoys cricket and golf, as well as being a keen photographer.

Martin O'Rawe - nominated by Elmwood College

Like so many young greenkeepers, Martin began his career as a YTS student. He joined the world-famous Royal Dornoch and as a result of his excellent work, both on the course and at Elmwood, was offered an apprenticeship.

Attending Elmwood on block release, he has recently completed his three year National Certificate in Greenkeeping course, gaining all modules with ease and winning the coveted St Andrews Trust Award for Best Practical Work, earned during the years of 1991-92.

Though he is only 20, Martin recently moved on to take up the position of greenkeeper at the South Course at Wentworth, the first stage of his declared ambition: working on a course that stages Tour events. From this base Martin aspires to working around the world, eventually moving into course construction and finally retiring to Scotland as a rich man!

Martin is a grand golfer who plays to a handicap of seven - he won the Most Improved Golfer award at Muir of Ord Golf Club and has played to single figures since his teens.

Anthony Gooch - nominated by Cannington College

Tony Gooch has been nominated for this award not just as a result of his tutors choice but as the choice of his peers. In the words of his lecturer, Nick Ridden, "Tony represents in many ways the model greenkeeping student. He is highly motivated towards his job and his Phase II Greenkeeping/Sportsturf Manage-

ment course, producing a standard of work that has been consistently high. He plans to proceed toward Phase III Greenkeeping Management this autumn.

"Although he has been in greenkeeping a comparatively short time the world of golf is one with which he is entirely familiar, for he has been a member of Torrington for 10 years and has served on committee. His opportunity to manage Torrington, a 9 hole heathland course characterised by its dry acid soil, came just two years ago.

"A nine handicapper who has won his way into two national finals, 31 year old Tony is able to perceive the job of preparing a golf course from the players point of view.

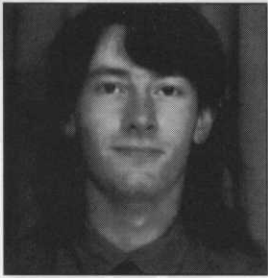
"He is especially interested in the constructional aspects of golf courses and produced an excellent college project on modern greens, tee and bunker construction".

Adrian Porter - nominated by Warwickshire College

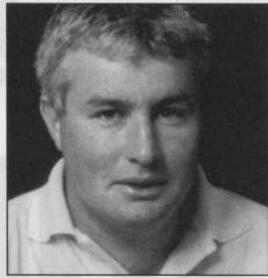
Adrian began his career as a landscape gardener, travelling the country installing cricket pitches. This led to his being appointed as a gardener and gave him his first taste of golf course work when he became involved in construction work at Western Park Golf Course. The decision was made - move into golf course maintenance proper - and this led him to his becoming assistant greenkeeper at Scraftoft GC. Now, some two years later, he is deputy head greenkeeper and enjoying every minute of his new found career.

Having already achieved C&G in Horticulture, Adrian recently completed Phase II Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Management under the tuition of Andy Cole and he plans to take Phase III this autumn.

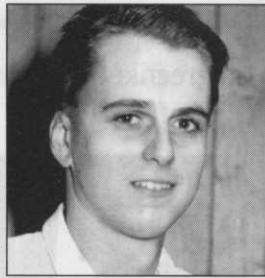
Paul Rabbich, his current lec-



Gary Tusler



James Timmins



Chris Chapman



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turer, had this to say: "Adrian has a very questioning, thorough mind in that he requires to understand 'why' rather than accepting facts on face value – an attribute which keeps staff very much on their toes. He has consistently achieved very high marks in written and oral exams and demonstrated an excellent understanding and background knowledge of greenkeeping and the game of golf.

"He always produces project work of an extremely high standard exhibiting his key virtues of enthusiasm, conscientiousness and hard work with that sparkle of innovation which separates him from his colleagues. These traits, combined with his sense of humour and easy going personality, make him a fine ambassador for the profession and an ideal candidate for this award".

Adrian, an avid golfer, has won several section events and represented his region in the 1991 Iseki Championships.

Gary Tusler – nominated by Oatridge College

Twenty one year old Gary began his golfing career as a YTS trainee at Murrayfield GC, remaining for two years before spending a brief spell in the Royal Navy. On his return to terra firma he immediately joined Uphall GC as an assistant greenkeeper, a position he has held for nearly three years.

Attending Oatridge Agricultural College on day release over three years to take Scotvec National Certificate modules in Greenkeeping and Groundsmanship, he has pleased his tutor by consistently giving total commitment and producing very high standards of both written and oral work. These exceptional standards have resulted in his gaining top college honours of Best First Year Student, Best Second Year Student, and Best Overall Greenkeeping Student (practical) in 1992.

In providing Greenkeeper International with observations of Gary's project and assignment work, course tutor Steve Miller had this choice comment to make: "Gary, a very able and diligent student, possesses the necessary attributes to make it to the very top of his chosen profession." Praise indeed.

James Timmins – nominated by Teagasc National Botanic Gardens, Dublin

It could be said that James has greenkeeping in his blood, for having grown up in the shadow of his greenkeeping father, he has followed in his Dad's footsteps to become a greenkeeper in his own right. In James's case, there was never any doubt that he would follow the calling and he joined Courtown Golf Club straight from school. Courtown is an 18 hole course located by the sea in County Wexford – God's own country. It's a busy course with over 1,000 members and employs three greenkeepers year round, supplemented by three extra assistants in the summer months.

Apart from his activities behind the triplex, James is an accomplished golfer who has won several competitions, including Intermediate Scratch and All Ireland Daily Mail Foursomes, representing Ireland at Royal Porthcawl.

Pat Suttle, tutor at Teagasc, is fulsome in praise of James as a student, telling us of his splendid progress in Phases I&II Greenkeeping & Sportsturf Management. Now these hurdles are safely crossed, James, aged 30, intends to continue with further education, progressing to Phase III Management, no doubt with a view to becoming a head greenkeeper.

Chris Chapman – nominated by Lancashire College of Agriculture and Horticulture

Twenty four year old Chris Chapman is something of an outdoor enthusiast, being an active participant in football, badminton and numerous other leisure activities.

Not content with spending his leisure time outdoors, Chris has been working on the golf course at Rochdale Golf Club for some seven years, three of those as first assistant to Karl Buckley.

His studies have taken him to Oldham College and thence to the Lancashire College, where his efforts have been rewarded by his being acclaimed as 'Student of the Year'.

Chris, who gains great satisfaction from his career at Rochdale GC, nurtures ambitions to become a head greenkeeper at a championship golf course.

FLYING DIVOTS

Another Scot strikes lucky

◆ **Not all activities at The Open** were centred around golf, as witnessed within the extremely 'liquid' marquee manned by members of the Golf Club Stewards Association. One such activity, which raised a splendid sum for the charity SPARKS (Sportsmen Pledged to Aid Research into Crippling Diseases) was the draw organised by Northwood GC steward, Peter Walsh. The good news, notwithstanding the funds raised, was that Willie Blair, secretary of the East of Scotland section of BIGGA, won first prize, a full set of Sundridge carbon shafted golf clubs. This follows the trend set in 1991 by Jim Paton, with yet another lucky Scot leaving The Open better equipped than on arrival.

◆ **Your editor shares the concern** expressed by members of the British Association of Golf Course Constructors (BAGCC), raised in their recent press release which decried adverse publicity generated in the 'popular' press regarding some golf developments.

'The majority of successful developments', say BAGCC, 'do not receive the same publicity as that generated by the high profile failures, resulting in the appearance that banks seem unwilling to look at golf as a business'.

The BAGCC membership have indicated their willingness to meet with bankers and discuss the many examples of successful developments with which they have been involved. They issue the challenge to bank financiers to 'consider golf on business grounds rather than on purely emotive terms'.

With the country in deep recession, the BAGCC argues that golf development over the past four years has continued to produce excellent businesses, some so successful that several golfing millionaires have been created. They are deeply upset by rumours that some banks have issued a hidden 'no to golf' edict.

The BAGCC, which employs over 3,000 people in all aspects of golf development, fear this negative attitude may lead to staff cutbacks at a time when the construction industry is severely depressed.

Permitting myself the luxury of theorising on banks and bankers, having personally tried and dismissed all five of the 'High Street Banking Mafia' as ill-equipped to meet even my modest demands, I believe that bankers – especially those at high street level – are lost souls floundering in a sea of their own incompetence. At a higher level, where the idea of demoting or sacking an obvious blunderer just never occurs, one is left to wonder who will eventually pay for such monstrous 'gaffs' as the loaning of irretrievable sums to Third World nations; aiding and abetting Robert Maxwell; the Canary Wharf white elephant, or their abortive and foolhardy stock-broking escapades.

◆ **Jon Allbutt has brought my attention** to recent reports regarding two chemical substances that could be encountered in some vehicles. Fluorolastomer or Veton is a material used to make some brake and oil seals and fuel pipes. There may also be a number of other, as yet unidentified, rubber/plastic substitutes now being used in vehicles.

These substances become highly dangerous after they have been burnt – ie. in a vehicle fire, when they melt and turn into highly corrosive Hydrofluoric acid. If this acid comes into contact with any bare skin it cannot be removed, other than by amputation. It also remains dangerous for a minimum of two years. Therefore, when dealing with a burnt out vehicle, gloves must be worn.

Electric ignition modules also contain dangerous substances which, when in contact with the skin, could cause cancer. The rule must be not to open ignition modules and if a vehicle has been damaged by fire or accident, take great care.

Jon's rider suggests that members should not handle burnt vehicle components without specialist assistance. Such an operation comes directly under COSHH regulations and will require an assessment before any work can be started.