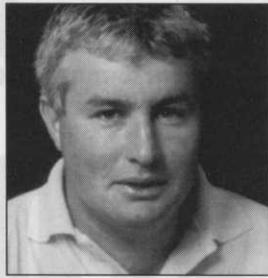
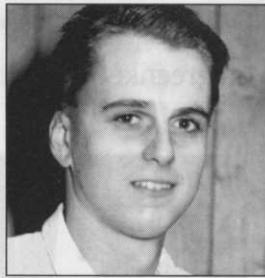


Gary Tusler



James Timmins



Chris Chapman



THE CANDIDATES

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.