



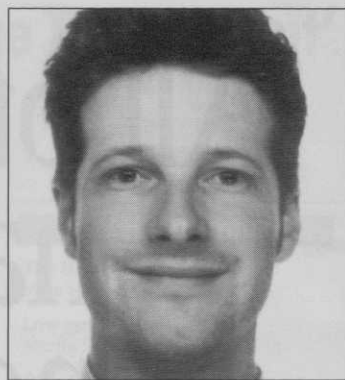
Alexander McAuley



Bridie Redican



Iain McCulloch



Jonathan Oldknow

Meet tomorrow's



The field of greenkeeper education, or more specifically the training colleges around the country and across the Irish Sea, has seen a hive of activity lately, with the selection process to find the 1993 Toro-PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year reaching fever pitch. In previous years 'approved colleges' were invited to nominate a student candidate, who then went forward automatically to the final. This year it was decided by both BIGGA and the sponsors that all colleges offering greenkeeping courses at craft level should nominate their 'Student of the Year', with regional finals staged to select the final eight candidates now featured.

Six regional finals have been held recently, the first at the Welsh College, followed by Oaklands, Cannington, Warwick, Askham Bryan and Elmwood. In addition, our colleagues in Eire and Northern Ireland held their own selection process. Thirty one nominations were named as 'student of the year' by their colleges, and by a process of interview and assessment we now have reached the final eight.

Huw Parry, BIGGA's education chairman, and Debbie Savage, BIGGA's new education officer, along with a representative from Toro-Lely, carried out interviews which sought to establish, amongst other things, a history of each candidate relative to a career in greenkeeping, their individual views on the benefits gained from their college course - including improvements they might like to see - and where they might see themselves in greenkeeping in, say, five years time. Judging by the comments received, we hope there are enough

'championship' golf courses for them all!

The winner, who will enjoy a Toro sponsored expenses paid trip to the USA, including student membership of the Winter School for Turfgrass Managers at University of Massachusetts, will be featured in the next issue of Greenkeeper International, as will the two runners-up, whose prizes will take them to a European Tour event as part of the PGA Support Team. The event takes place at Aldwark Manor on 11 October.

The Candidates:

ALEXANDER McAULEY
nominated by Greenmount College, Northern Ireland

Thirty six year old fitness fanatic Alex is not the sort you would care to upset, for in a jiffy he'll likely have you on the deck! Joking aside, Alex is an avid and highly accomplished practitioner of the art of ju-jitsu and boasts a yellow belt - which means he's pretty damned good.

He's also made impressive in-roads toward carving a solid career in greenkeeping, having begun his fine turf education as an apprentice with the City of Belfast, working at numerous different sporting locations and including a lengthy spell on the underrated but significantly important task of nurturing a bowling green to the standard demanded of championships.

Now with the Ballyearl Golf and Leisure Centre, he's been their head greenkeeper for some five years, during which time he's tucked an NJC in Horticulture and Turfculture under his belt and completed Phase II in Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Management, with a distinction in paper two. Currently undertaking some major course development work at Ballyearl, when this is complete Alex intends to concentrate more on what he describes as 'getting serious' about playing golf.

BRIDIE REDICAN
nominated by Teagasc National Botanical Gardens, Dublin

Glory be, for the first time ever we have a lady nominated for this prestige award, and a practicing greenkeeper to boot! Bridie is 25, lives in County Kilkenny and works as an assistant at the new Jack Nicklaus designed Mount Juliet, a course which played host in 1993 to a PGA European Tour event, the Carrolls Irish

Open. What a busy schedule Bridie has packed into her life, with a good deal of golf course experience, including construction of tees, greens and bunkers, in such far flung places as Australia and Michigan USA, all this before joining the team at Mount Juliet under Aidan O'Hara.

Bridie started her career by studying Horticulture at An Grianan College, though since becoming a full time greenkeeper she has followed the time-worn path of studying City & Guilds in Greenkeeping, working now toward Phase II with plans to continue with Phase III on block release.

Pat Suttle, Bridie's tutor at Teagasc, praises her conscientiousness and is fulsome in his admiration for her ability to compete - and to win - in what is often considered a male dominated profession. Like many who enter greenkeeping, Bridie is hooked on golf, though she does not have a handicap just yet - no matter, watch out Laura Davis!

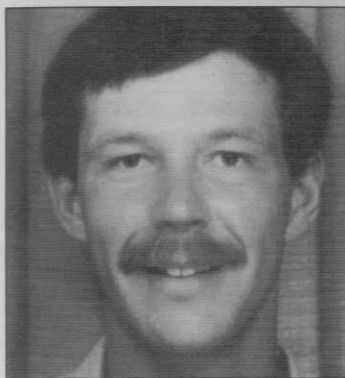
IAIN McCULLOCH
nominated by Langside College, Glasgow

We may assume that Iain McCulloch has a strong right arm and a splendid pair of lungs, for he is a member of the Scottish fly fishing team - a Scottish Youth International no less - and he also plays the bagpipes as a member of the local band. He's just 20, took to greenkeeping first as a seasonal employee before catching the eye of his employers and being offered a three year apprentice at Torrance House GC. Iain has taken all modules in the Scotvec National Certificate in Greenkeeping and Groundsmanship, and was chosen as the best second year student in 1992. Not content to rest on such laurels, he will soon undertake further study by way of an HNC in Golf Course Management.

Writing of Iain, Langside tutor Colin Urquhart declared him a sound theorist and an eminently practical exponent of the art of greenkeeping, whilst bringing to the college an inspiration to others in his peer group, offering well rounded and coherent points of view, often with originality and insight. Guess what, he's a beginner at golf and is already 'hooked' - forgive the pun!

JONATHAN OLDKNOW
nominated by the Warwickshire College

Twenty six year old Jonathan was voted the



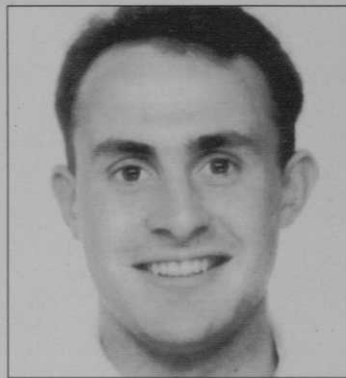
Anthony Bindley



Mike Yorston



Richard Andrews



Christopher Solman

cream of the crop

Warwickshire's top practical greenkeeping student of 1993, having completed C&G in Phases I and II before moving to Year IV in Turf Management. Like so many who turn to greenkeeping as a career, he's a keen sportsman, having represented the City of Coventry schools in both football and cricket, whilst also nursing a pretty good golf swing to a handicap of 16. Full time education gained Jonathan six 'O' levels and an 'A' level, and he began his career with the Metropolitan Police Force – 'Oldknow of the Met' has a nice sound about it – but altered his ideas of a police career after a spell with the West Midlands Police Force, thus taking a complete change of direction by working for the Warwick Parks and Leisure Department. This valuable experience in sports turf management and horticulture, both practical and theoretic, brought him to his present task, that of assistant greenkeeper with the Coventry Hearsall GC.

Jonathan's tutor at the Warwickshire praises his leadership qualities, whilst being equally impressed by his extensive knowledge of plants, his commitment, his self motivation and his high level of initiative.

ANTHONY BINDLEY

nominated by Reaseheath College

The catch-phrase in East Midlands golfing territory, as players quietly succumb to defeat at the hand of Anthony or his brother – the notorious Bindley twins – is to murmur 'I've been Bindleyed'.

Anthony, 30, is described as 'the quiet man of golf' by his tutor, Denis Mortram, also 'one who has excellent dedication to his chosen career, being highly perceptive and with the ability to work diligently whilst alone.' Not content with ringing Anthony's praises, Denis quietly let slip his opinion that Anthony is 'Reaseheath's best nominee for several years.'

Anthony has been in golf greenkeeping for three years, having taken C&G in Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Management at Phase II (and winning the 'Best Student' nomination) whilst working as an assistant at Kirby Muxloe GC. He plans to begin Phase III in the coming year.

Before Kirby Muxloe, Anthony spent a decade as an assistant groundsman at the Leicestershire County Cricket Club and, as you might imagine, cricket is as much a love as

golf. He's captained the village cricket club for the past five years – whilst 'Bindleying' his way to wins in the BIGGA E. Midlands Singles and Pairs Knockouts in 1992. Nice fellow, quiet maybe, but a deep thinker and a canny wee golfer.

MIKE YORSTON

nominated by Sparsholt College

Mike, 24, is fortunate to work at that most delicious of Surrey courses, Worplesdon. Luckier still that he took to greenkeeping, for the job which has become so much a part of his life was originally a 'temp' post, a chance simply to earn enough to travel around Europe! Mike must have liked Worplesdon and they must have liked him, for the rest is history – three years working his way up to first assistant – whilst also taking C&G in Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Management at Phases I & II. In writing, Mike explained the Worplesdon job offer was 'too good to refuse', and he is deeply involved now in all aspects of course maintenance, priceless experience that includes a programme of clearing scrub and sucklings to encourage heather growth where it had been shaded by trees, also to the benefit of wildlife.

Hailing from New Zealand, it's not surprising that Mike is a keen rugby player, playing for the first team in the London New Zealand Rugby Club, but his sporting fancy also covers golf – playing to a mean 12 – and he serves on the Surrey section of BIGGA – a busy man. Like all Antipodeans he wants to travel, but his real ambition is to become a golf course manager – either here or on the sunny shores of New Zealand.

RICHARD ANDREWS

nominated by Oaklands College

Richard, 26, is an assistant greenkeeper at Highgate GC, a post he has held for less than a year. OK, it's a short spell, but having been accepted at Oaklands on a full time ONC in Greenkeeping and Sportsturf Management, Richard knew full well which direction his new career would go and he threw himself into greenkeeping like no other. I suspect also that Richard doesn't ever do things by halves, you would never expect it of a man who this year alone has competed in a 25 mile walk, a 75 mile bike race and a half marathon, plus a swimathon for charity. By the way, he plays

tennis, golfs' well enough to shoot level par (his best) at Brent Valley, and likes taking photographs – phew!

Ian Merrick is fulsome in his praise for Richard, his 'Top Student and Award Winner' declaring him as being possessed of a high degree of personal motivation and taking particular pride in projects. Voted by his peers to become their course representative, in this capacity he became a member of their Greenkeeper Liaison Committee. Richard joined Highgate GC for just four weeks work experience under Derek Mason, the course manager, and as a direct result he's now full time at this London parkland club. Coming soon – Richard Andrews in Phase IV Business Management!

CHRISTOPHER SOLMAN

nominated by Pencoed College

In humorously describing life before greenkeeping, Chris, 24, wrote of starting in sales – followed by nearly three years in the Army, where the attraction was to learn a trade and travel the world – and of being thoroughly disillusioned! His only trip was a boot-camp week in Scotland, his time spent playing rugby for his regiment at Bordon, Hampshire. The sum result was three months training as a vehicle mechanic, untold rugby games and lots of bull! – he quit. Returning to civvie street, quite by accident Chris was directed to labour as a summer worker at Cardiff GC. He thought his military training might come in useful (machinery maintenance, presentation, discipline, time-keeping, that sort of thing), and hoped, as he liked the life so much, that the club might take him on permanently. They did, he's been with them for four years now, the accidental start becoming a very smart career move indeed.

Luck has a way of following the lucky, and Chris admits to having his fair share of good fortune – Cardiff GC agreed to him attending Pencoed, he's currently completing his second year of Phase II G&STM, and he's soon to make a start into Phase III. His tutor, Peter Gillard, thinks Chris is rather special and wrote glowingly of his 'presenting the image of a very modern, progressive greenkeeper.' Peter's convinced he'll go to the top. By chance, Chris and Mike Yorston have much in common – Chris plays rugby and holds the record number of tries in one season at Tongwynlais – 32 in 18 games!