



John Quinn, pictured, has been appointed manager of the new 18-hole course planned at Elmwood College in Cupar, Fife. John, 29, was previously employed as head greenkeeper at Alva Golf Club, Alva, Clackmannanshire.

Construction of the Elmwood course is likely to begin in March.

The course, which will provide realistic conditions for training students, is designed by John Salvesen and offers an exciting prospect for Quinn.

John is no stranger to Elmwood College, being both a past and present student there himself. He is currently awaiting confirmation of his Master Greenkeeper Certificate, stage one status, and is also studying part-time for his HND in golf course management.

● At Elmwood College's annual awards ceremony the greenkeeping section was well represented and full-time student prize-winners included Margeir Vilhjalmsen from Iceland (SCOTVEC National Certificate in Greenkeeping and the St Andrews Links Trust Award) and Richard Barham from Cupar (SCOTVEC Higher National Certificate in



Manager appointed as preparation work starts at college golf course

Golf Course Management and the Carnoustie Golf Links Award).

Part-time students who received prizes for the SCOTVEC National Certificate in Greenkeeping and also the BIGGA (Scottish Region) Awards were Robert Whiting, employed by Royal Cromer Golf Club (1st year) and David Williams, employed by Wentworth Golf Club (2nd year). Third year student Kenneth McManamon of Kildare Hotel & Country Club, Co Kildare, also received the Gleneagles Chal-

lenge Trophy.

Distance learning student David Ashley, of Great Barr Golf Club, Birmingham, was presented with the prize for the SCOTVEC National Certificate in Greenkeeping Supervision (Distance Learning).

● Pictured: Professor Donald MacKay, chairman of Scottish Enterprise, and Carol Borthwick, head of greenkeeping section at Elmwood College, with the prizewinners from the greenkeeping section.

Students take the initiative

Students from the world's first HND in golf course management – run at Cannington College in Somerset – have taken the initiative and started marketing themselves before they hit the job market in April.

The students, who will graduate after three years' full-time training, are the first to complete the HND, initiated by BIGGA over three years ago.

But when they contacted golf clubs to introduce themselves, they discovered that few really understood the new HND course and qualification.

Said student George Simpson: "Because this is a new qualification, the greenkeeping industry does not yet know how it fits into the usual framework of jobs. We would like to see the qualification explained to potential employers."

Fellow student Graham Martin added: "While this HND is a highly specialised course in golf



course management, we don't expect to enter the industry at a very high level. We acknowledge that we need to gain experience before taking on senior positions."

Three of the students have previous greenkeeping experience and are taking the HND to further their careers. In total, 15 students are due to graduate in April, following a training which includes two work placements

totalling 10 months' work experience. Graham and another student, Chris Jack, worked in the Forest of Arden during the Murphy's English Open, while George worked at Gleneagles during the Scottish Open.

The HND course covers all aspects of golf course management including architecture, construction, greenkeeping, course management, consultancy and agronomy.

FLYING DIVOTS

■ Construction of the North Weald Golf Club, an 18-hole David Williams-designed course just north on the M25 in Hertfordshire, has resumed. "Originally the course formed part of the ill-fated Compton Holdings development and although work had started nearly two years ago this proved to be a hindrance rather than a help," according to constructors Whitnell Contracts. The course will have a number of water features and two lakes when construction is completed and seeding takes place late spring.

■ A new £740,000 production facility for Terralift Fertilisers came on line last month. The facility, built in Co Monaghan, Ireland, has a capacity of 10,000 tonne per annum and will predominantly service the company's European distribution centres, including those in Glasgow and Peterborough. New products being launched at Harrogate this month include Greens Start 11:1:1 which has been developed to promote early colour and growth in fine turf, and Humiboost Fine Turf Liquor – a foliar spray finely tuned to an individual course with a tissue analysis.

■ Sign and plaque maker CB Designs International Ltd is so confident about a new form of fixing that the Rickmansworth-based company says it will replace any tee plaques that are stolen within three years of purchase free of charge. Tel: 0923 897160

■ Richard Aitkens of Glasgow is H Patisson & Co Ltd's UK Distributor of the Year. SBS of France is the European Distributor of the Year.

■ Johnsons Seeds is centralising its entire operations at its Boston headquarters, closing its branches at Woodley near Reading and Haydock. Johnsons says it has invested heavily in computerisation and upgrading production at Boston so there is no longer a requirement to retain the two branches, which were opened in the 1960s.