

Student Greenkeeper of the Year

From an initial 400 students, the Toro/PGA European Tour Student Greenkeeper of the Year competition has been whittled down to eight finalists.

Selection from the 17 participating colleges produced 39 for the regional finals at Edinburgh, Bradford, Hemel Hempstead and Cheltenham and these were interviewed by Pat Murphy, BIGGA Vice Chairman and Chairman of the Education Committee, Ken Richardson, BIGGA Education Officer and either Peter Mansfield, David Cole or Bob Bevan of Lely.

The final will be held at Aldwark Manor on October 27-28.



Alasdair McLean

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Representing Scotland Age: 21.

College: Oatridge

Alasdair has worked at Machrihanish Golf Club, by Campbeltown on the west coast of Scotland for two and a half years and is currently studying for the SVQ Level II on block release at Oatridge where he has been best student in both the first and second years.

A keen golfer, footballer and rugby man his ambition is to become a Head Greenkeeper on one of the country's top courses.



Karl Weston

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Representing: Northern. Age: 28.

College: Askham Bryan.

Employed by CJ Collins Construction at the National Golf Centre, Woodhall Spa, Karl is the Greens/Tees Drainage Foreman and has just completed his NVQ Level II.

He worked at Hanbury Manor before moving to Woodhall Spa where he hopes to remain after the construction has finished.

Keen to see all aspects of the golfing industry he feels fortunate to have worked at two such excellent courses.

Out of work he is a keen swimmer, gardener and hill walker.

John Donnelly

Representing: South East. Age: 28.

College: Oaklands.

Zimbabwe born John is an assistant at The Buckinghamshire GC, studying NVQ Level II. Another man who has come to greenkeep-



John Donnelly

ing from other areas having worked in a golf shop and caddied on the South African Tour. He has also undertaken his National Service, was the Workshop Manager in a small factory and was a security guard.

His interests include golf, running, swimming, diving and shooting.



Stephen Privett

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Representing: South West and South Wales. Age: 31 College: Sparsholt.

Stephen is First Assistant at Hamptworth Golf Club, Landford, studying NVQ Level II, having initially come into the golf industry as a seasonal labourer at South Winchester. Previously a car mechanic and landscape gardener Stephen, who is married with two children, has set himself the target of being a Head Greenkeeper within five years and having reached First Assistant in two is well on course. His ultimate ambition is to become a Master Greenkeeper.

Not one to let the grass grow under his feet he is a keen golfer, judo player, snooker and pool player and rebuilt his own Escort MKI.

Fintan Brennan

Representing: Scotland. Age 32.

College: Elmwood.

A Metal Fabricator for 14 years an interest in golf encouraged a career change and he has risen to be Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Portmarnock in his native Ireland.

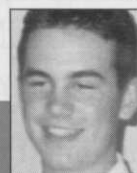


Fintan Brennan

Studying for his SVQ Level II, Fintan won the class prize and the BIGGA Scottish Region Award in his first year and the Barenbrug Student of the Year Award in his second.

Aims to complete his HNC and HND and take his golf club through a major professional or amateur tournament as Head Greenkeeper.

Outside interests include golf where he has a handicap of 6, photography and motor racing.



John Bachelor

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Representing: South West and South Wales. Age: 20 College: Cannington.

An assistant at Mendip Spring Golf Club John is another studying for his NVQ Level II.

He is currently on a five year apprenticeship run by the golf club.

A keen cricketer he holds six records for batting for Failand and Portbury Cricket Club while he is also interested in golf and horse racing.

Noel Greene

Representing: Midlands Age: 20

College: Warwickshire.

Noel is an assistant at Gay Hill Golf Club and is studying for his NVQ Level II. His Course Tutor at Warwickshire College described him as having the potential to become an ambassador for the profession.. A man with a thirst for travel he has ambitions to work in America and Sweden. He has also visited many European



Noel Greene

countries but would like to add India and Africa to the list.

He is currently learning to drive and is a keen supporter of Birmingham City FC and Warwickshire CCC.



Michael Hartney

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Representing: Ireland. Age: 26.

College: Stiofain Naofa.

An assistant at Ballybunion GC and currently studying for his NVQ Level III and C&G Phase 2, he has previously been a Course Ranger and a caddie, where he worked alongside the likes of Jack Nicklaus and Tom Watson.

He has ambitions to build his own home in Ballybunion, a course he describes as "phenomenal".

Off the golf course he plays traditional Irish music on the accordion and breeds canaries.

WHEN I'M NOT AT WORK I LIKE TO:



"Be in the pub"

Dave Leatherland, Kedleston GC