

# COUNTING



**Jeff Bailey**



**Steven Nixon**



**Alan Owen**



**Andrew Baker**



**David Ansell**



**Neil Robson**



**Christopher Rawlings**



**Daniel Crowley**

The Student of the Year Finalists are:

**Jeff Bailey**

Jeff is a much travelled man, having spent 13 years in the Army, before leaving to start a career in greenkeeping. Jeff now works as an assistant greenkeeper at the Royal Burgess Golfing Society in Edinburgh. He completed the first year of his SVQ Level II at Oatridge College, winning a nomination for the BIGGA First Year Prize and he will complete Level II in 1998. Jeff, his wife and three sons live in Ratho Station, Midlothian.

**Steven Nixon**

Steven is an assistant greenkeeper at Wortley Golf Club, where his Head Greenkeeper, until his recent retirement, was past BIGGA Chairman, Barry Heaney. Steven has been a greenkeeper for three and a half years following time served as an apprentice motor vehicle mechanic, where he not only achieved his City and Guilds in Motor Mechanics but was also voted MAA Mechanic of the Year and appeared in a career video. Steven joined Wortley in 1994 as a greenkeeper/mechanic and he has recently completed his NVQ Level II at Askham Bryan College.

**Alan Owen**

Alan has been involved in landscaping and gardening for some time, working for a landscaping company and in a local garden

**The winner of this competition will be awarded the TORO Scholarship, which includes a six weeks residential study course at the University of Massachusetts and visits to the TORO factories in Minneapolis and California. If time permits, the winner will join the two runners-up and his college lecturer at the GCSAA Conference and show in Anaheim California. All expenses will be paid by TORO.**

centre. He joined Royal Birkdale as an apprentice in 1995, where he has gained a wide range of experience, preparing the Course for the 1998 Open Championship and contributing to the ecological management of the Course. Alan has recently completed his NVQ Level II, at Myerscough College, where he was voted Class Student of the Year in 1996. Being awarded his Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award at Buckingham Palace was a day that Alan will never forget.

**Andrew Baker**

Andrew has been a greenkeeper for over four years and he has just moved to his second club, Gog Magog, from Bar Hill Golf Club. Andrew is a keen sportsman, playing hockey for Cam-

bridge City, golf and rugby. Andrew has completed his NVQ Level II at Cambridgeshire College, where he won the Barenbrug Prize for the Best Student on his course. He hopes to start NVQ Level III this year when he feels that his Business Studies A Level will help his understanding of the Supervisory aspects. Another finalist with travel in mind, Andrew would like to return to Australia and perhaps work on a golf course.

**David Ansell**

David is a very experienced greenkeeper, having been Course Manager at The Dyke Golf Club for four years. No stranger to BIGGA events, David spoke at Harrogate during the 1997 Seminar Programme and he is through to the final stages of the BIGGA Golf Course Environment Competition. Although very experienced, David has recently completed his Level II NVQ, hence his nomination by Plumpton College for this competition.

**Neil Robson**

Neil has worked as an assistant greenkeeper for three years at Harpenden Golf Club and he gained more experience from working at Dunstable Downs Golf Club during his summer holidays from school. Neil is a keen golfer, playing off 4 and he also plays football, is a boxer and martial arts expert. He has recently completed a "fast track" NVQ Level II Course at Oaklands College, where he

hopes to return, in September for an NVQ Level III Course.

**Christopher Rawlings**

After starting life as an apprentice in an aerospace factory, Christopher moved into greenkeeping five years ago. He is a keen rugby player, coaching and playing at a number of levels. Chris has a great deal of experience of golf course construction and tree planting, although he wishes that he had been given more say in the construction of his present course, Rodway Hill, now that he is head greenkeeper. Chris gained his Level II NVQ at Hartpury College and he has almost completed Level III. Keen to learn through study and from experience, Christopher would like to continue his studies to gain a degree in Landuse and would like to work in Europe and the United States.

**Daniel Crowley**

The youngest of our finalists, Daniel is the Head Greenkeeper of a new 18 Hole Course at Blarney Golf Club, which is nearing completion. He also has experience of working at Muskerry and Fota Island Golf Clubs. Daniel followed a course in Amenity Horticulture with a National Vocational Certificate Course in Greenkeeping at Colaiste Stiofain in Cork and attended the complete Learning Experience Week at Harrogate in 1997. In his search for more knowledge and experience, Daniel would like to work abroad.

at the Hotel St George, in Harrogate, on October 27, for what promises to be a very intensive day of interviews.

# DOWN



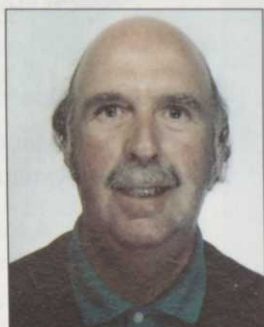
**Tom Murray**



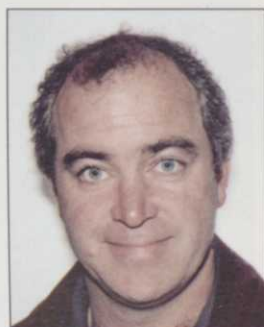
**Philip Stain**



**Mark Ford**



**William Sparrow**



**Ian McMillan**

## Tom Murray

There must be something in the air at Ratho as Jeff Bailey, a Student of the Year Finalist also lives in the area. Tom is the Head Greenkeeper at Ratho Park Golf Club, an 18 hole parkland course, situated eight miles west of Edinburgh. The club is, currently, having a driving range built, a tee reconstruction programme has commenced as has a tree planting programme. Tom is heavily involved in education and after completing his studies at Oatridge College he is keen to ensure that his staff are all qualified. He feels that winning this competition will not only benefit the Club and himself but will also be of great benefit to his staff.

## Philip Stain

Philip is the Head Greenkeeper at the Notts Golf Club (Hollinwell), four miles south of Mansfield. An 18 hole heathland course, it has a membership of 400, playing 26,000 rounds a year. Philip has been with the Club for 13 years but he has only recently become the Head Greenkeeper. He is very careful to manage his course in an environmentally friendly way, even installing escape routes for toads to exit deep drains. Philip sees a trip to America as the highlight of any greenkeeper's career and it would make him very proud if he should win.

**The Finalists for the TORO Award for Excellence in Greenkeeping will join the Students of the Year Finalists in Harrogate on 27 October. The process to select the five finalists for this competition started back in February when golf clubs, committee members, greenkeeping staff, golfers etc were invited to nominate their Head Greenkeeper/Course Manager. More than 200 nominations were received at BIGGA and all nominees were sent individual application forms. This resulted in more than 40 entries which were sorted and sent out to BIGGA Sections. Each Section selected their choice of candidate and their entry forms were sent to the relevant Region. Regions then assessed their candidates and these were selected:**

## Mark Ford

Mark is the Head Greenkeeper at Kingsdown Golf Club, which is an

18 hole, downland club, five miles east of Bath. Mark has been at the Club for 20 years and he has been Head Greenkeeper for seven years. This club has 700 members playing 45,000 rounds a year. The club is planning a number of changes, having just bought 30 acres of land. Mark feels that winning this competition would be a major achievement for the Club and would enhance its reputation.

## William Sparrow

William (Bill) is the Head Greenkeeper at East Herts Golf Club, an 18 hole parkland course with a membership of 700. Bill, who has been with the Club for approximately two years, manages a team of five greenkeepers who all hold or are working towards formal qualifications. Bill feels that winning this competition would improve the status of his staff and be a reward for his years in the industry. The course has seen many changes since Bill's arrival and he is keen that it should continue to improve.

## Ian McMillan

Ian is the Course Manager at Hankley Common Golf Club, three miles south of Farnham in Surrey. This 18 hole private members' Club is a heathland course which supports a wide range of flora and fauna and, 40,000-

45,000 rounds of golf a year. Ian manages a staff of five greenkeepers, and is proud to have provided several Course Managers for other clubs. Ian feels that, although the Club is 100 years old, its committee structure and constitution make it more than ready for the challenges of the future. Ian thinks that winning this competition will not only be of benefit to himself but also to his club, to his team of greenkeepers and to the industry in general.

■ Walter Woods revisited all five courses during September, ready for the Final in October. Each entry was judged on a number of criteria ie. Golf Course Maintenance, Continuing Professional Development, Role in Golf Club Management, Environmental Management and Benefits of winning.

The winner's golf club will be presented with a world renowned TORO Greensmaster 3000 triple greensmower and the winning trophy. The winning greenkeeper will win a two week trip to the United States, visiting the GCSAA Conference and Show as well as trips to the TORO factories. His team will each receive a set of BIGGA waterproofs. Each Regional winner will receive £100 and a plaque to display in their clubhouse.