

Student Greenkeeper of the Year finalists



Name: Nicholas Webber
Age: 35
College: Greenmount
Golf Club: Portstewart
GC

Nicholas is a former professional golfer whose feats include playing all four rounds in the European Open at Sunningdale and winning the Regional Qualifying Round at Camberley Heath for the 1984 Open at St Andrews. He twice just failed to win his Tour card and so reapplied for his amateur status. He was a successful car salesman before deciding to move into greenkeeping and is currently studying for his Level 2 as well as doing a Distance Learning package for an HNC from Elmwood. He has qualified to represent Northern Ireland in the Hayter International Cup in Atlanta later this month and his handicap is currently 5.



Name: Steven Myres
Age: 34
College: Elmwood
Golf Club: Glenisla Golf
Course

Steven combines his role as greenkeeper at Glenisla with that of Head of Ski Patrol in the area which is one of Scotland's most popular ski resorts. The course was built by the Glenshee Chairlift Company in 1994 to offer a summer sport and Steven, who has been employed by the company for 12 years, was involved in its construction. He is a 9 handicap golfer and is also a keen squash player and curler as well as a skier.



Name: Gary Gruber
Age: 19
College: Elmwood
Golf Club: Royal Dornoch
Golf Club

Gary has just completed his SVQ Level II and is soon to start his HNC. He is a 4 handicap golfer and a former Junior County Champion and Club Champion at Strathpeffer Spa GC. His love of golf inspired him towards a career in greenkeeping and he has been at Royal Dornoch for two and a half years. He would like to move to an inland course at some stage to add to his greenkeeping knowledge.



Name: Paul Shelley
Age: 29
College: Oaklands
Golf Club: Chesfield
Downs Golf Club

Paul arrived in greenkeeping following a career change - he had previously worked in the food retail industry. He enrolled in a National Certificate in Greenkeeping and Sports Turf Management course and then did voluntary work at Chesfield Downs to gain practical experience. A 7 handicap golfer and member of Stevenage GC, Paul's other interests include football, skiing and travelling.



Name: Sally Doherty
Age: 24
College: Warwickshire
College
Golf Club: The Belfry

Sally is First Assistant on the the world famous Brabazon Course which is currently being prepared to host the 2001 Ryder Cup. She has nearly completed her NVQ Level 2. Her interests include yoga and reading while she has just started to have golf lessons. She is also studying sign language.



Name: Richard Aitken
Age: 49
College: Myerscough
Golf Club: Royal Lytham
St Annes Golf Club

Richard has been an assistant at the famous Open venue for 12 years, working under Jimmy MacDonald, and made the decision to through himself into education late in life. He is currently studying for his NVQ Level III. He has a handicap of 12 and is also a keen photographer.



Name: Mark Allen
Age: 24
College: Warwickshire College
Golf Club: Marriott Forest of Arden - now Fulford Heath

Mark arrived at greenkeeping from the world of crown green bowling (he was part of the '97 British Team Championship winning team) when he took on the role of greenkeeper at a green in the Midlands on a part-time basis - and is still there. Having initially begun studying for a degree in psychology he changed course to turf management and joined the Forest of Arden. He has since worked on some of the top European Tour events held at the course.



Name: Geoff Mills
Age: 41
College: Cannington College
Golf Club: Woodbury Park G&CC

Geoff has been the head man at the Nigel Mansell-owned Woodbury Park for eight years and is responsible for the 27 holes as well as the extensive estate lands. He has completed his NVQ Level 3 and is looking forward to moving on to Level 4. He was awarded the Best Student prize at Cannington College. His interests include golf where he has been a 6 handicapper - currently 13 - horses, dog training and rugby - he is an ex-Captain of Exmouth Rugby Club. He is also a former National Board of Manager Member of BIGGA