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Profile

Usually the spotlight falls on the Course Manager or Head Greenkeeper at a Club.

Now it is the turn of those whose work often goes unheralded to star.



Name: Mark Brute

Club: Old Colwyn GC

Position: Assistant Greenkeeper

Age: 17

1. How long have you been a greenkeeper?
15 months

2. What education are you currently undertaking?
NVQ Level 2 at The Welsh College of Horticulture

3. Which one task do you most enjoy doing?
Cutting fairways

4. Which one task do you most dislike doing?
Edging and raking bunkers. Also divoting tees

5. What job other than greenkeeping might you have ended up doing?
My second option was to be a joiner

6. Who has been the biggest influence on your career?
My parents have been the biggest influence, also Gary Edwards, Head Greenkeeper at Old Colwyn Golf Club

7. What would you do to improve the life of a greenkeeper?
Better understanding from Club Members of the work involved in maintaining a golf course

8. What are your hobbies?
Playing golf with a handicap of 6, and bike riding

9. What do you get out of BIGGA?
Monthly copy of Greenkeeper International, greenkeeper seminars and outings

10. What do you hope to be doing in 10 years time?
Would like to be a Head Greenkeeper or maybe involved in course design and construction

Keegan presents Carden with award



England football Manager, Kevin Keegan, was on hand to help Carden Park celebrate winning a top national honour.

The 750-acre hotel, golf resort and spa, on the outskirts of Chester, has been voted Best UK Venue by the publishers of the best-selling 'Following the Fairways' guide.

And the England soccer boss interrupted a round of golf at Carden to present the Award.

The annual award, sponsored by Jameson Irish whiskey, is based on all-round excellence, including the quality of a venue's golf courses, its hotel facilities and the welcome provided by staff.

Julian West, publisher of Following the Fairways said, "Carden Park has established itself in a relatively short period of time as 'the Gleneagles of Northern England'.

"It is a worthy winner of the 1999

UK Golf Venue of the Year award and, for any golfer planning a trip to the north west, Carden Park is a must."

Hamish Ferguson, General Manager of Carden Park, said: "We're delighted with this award, which proves our status as a major golfing venue - able to host some illustrious occasions, as well as provide enjoyment for individual golfers of all abilities."

Information centre at new Association

Some of the U.K.'s most experienced experts throughout the golf industry have joined forces to form the Golf Consultants Association.

Based near Warwick at the Sports industries Federation, the association will provide a point of reference for those requiring independent professional golf consultancy services world-wide.

This independent association of golf consultants will incorporate eight disciplines from the initial development and investment appraisal through to operational management and marketing of golf clubs and resorts world-wide.

Stephen Proctor, on behalf of the Association commented:

"Our collective aim is to provide

clients with a highly professional service with the reassurance of working with some of the most experienced individuals in the golf business. In this way we can ensure that the client receives an efficient and cost effective service. Our nine founding members, including two from STRI, provide a solid base for the Association's future."

The initial cost of membership will be £250 per annum, and will be on an individual rather than a corporate basis.

Prospective members must demonstrate substantial consulting expertise and experience in one GCA membership discipline for a minimum of five years plus references from two clients commissions.

Founding Members and Disciplines

Stephen Proctor, Sports Marking Surveys Ltd - Golf Development Market Research
Alan Ryder, Ryder Golf Services - Golf Topographic/Survey Services
Robert Taylor, STRI, and David Stubbs, Env. Golf Services - Environmental Management
John Ashworth, John Ashworth Associates; Dr Falk Billion, Golf Management, and Bryan Griffiths, Golfconsult International - Development and Investment Appraisal.
Jeff Perris, STRI, and George Shiels, McMillan-Shiels - Turfgrass Agronomy.
Philip York, York & Martin - Water Resourcing and Irrigation
Ian Bullied, Impetus Golf and Leisure - Operational Management Consultancy
Graeme Grant, Premier Resorts Ltd; Russell Bragg, Premier Resorts Ltd, and Helen McDonnell, Compete Golf and Leisure - Golf Enterprise Marketing.

Saltex success

The Best New Sportsturf Product Award at SALTEx '99 was won by Kubota (UK) for the AM3300 Ride-on Triple Cylinder Mower, said to be the only mower of its kind in Europe that is able to collect and dispose of cut grass without the driver leaving his seat. Although this product is aimed at local authorities and contractors with large grass areas to mow, the judges considered that the machine would also bring benefit to professional sportsturf managers and groundsmen maintaining football pitches.

BIGGA 2000 subscription rates

Subscription rates valid from January 2000

Job Title	2000 rates
Course Manager/Head Greenkeeper	£75
Deputy Course Manager/Deputy Head Greenkeeper	£60
All other greenkeeping staff aged 21 years and over	£50
Green staff aged 20 years and under	£30
Full-time Students	£15
International Greenkeeper	£60
Associate Member	£60