



**STUDENT  
OF THE YEAR**

**Name:** Simon O'Hara  
**Age:** 29  
**Golf Club:** Fota Island GC  
**College:** Colaiste Stiofain Naofa

Simon started work as a greenkeeper at Fota Island in May of this year having previously done work experience at Monkstown Golf Club as well as three months in the States during his college course. He is currently working towards his Greenkeeping NCV City & Guilds Level 2 but he also holds a BA in History and Geography, an MA in History and a Diploma in Legal Studies. A keen sportsman with a golf handicap of 10 his ambition is to represent Ireland in some sporting capacity.

**Name:** Kevin Scarce  
**Age:** 18  
**Golf Club:** Bedale GC  
**College:** Askham Bryan

Kevin began working at Bedale while still at school and he started full time when he left school. He has just completed his NVQ Level II in Sportsturf which he undertook in block release. Another keen sportsman he who his school basketball colours and plays golf and football and turns out for Northallerton Town, rugby union club. He is interested in perhaps working abroad in the future to add to his experience while he has his sights set on becoming a Course Manager.

**Name:** Vincent Gilroy  
**Age:** 22  
**GC:** The Warwickshire  
**College:** Askham Bryan

Vincent is Deputy Course Manager at the Warwickshire, a 45 hole Championship complex, having been Acting Course Manager for four months earlier this year. Prior to that he worked as an Assistant at the 27 hole Seedy Mill GC. He is currently just completing his NVQ Level III. He is a six handicap golfer and won the '98 BIGGA Singles Knockout Championship for the Midlands Region while he enjoys foreign travel. In fact his ambition is to be a Course Manager of a course in Portugal.

**Name:** Jim Gilchrist  
**Age:** 24  
**Golf Club:** Hamilton GC  
**College:** Woodburn House

Jim has been an assistant at Hamilton for five years having done a further two years on YTS. He has achieved SVQ Level I&II and is currently working towards level III having passed his spraying certificates. A keen sportsman listing golf and keep fit among his interests but he was also voted the Young Player of the Year for his local amateur football club. He is hoping to soon be in a position to apply for First Assistant positions.



## Student Greenkeeper of the Year finalists



**Name:** Tommy Givnan  
**Age:** 34  
**Golf Club:** Bowring Golf Course (Knowsley Municipal)  
**College:** Myerscough

Tommy has been Head Greenkeeper, at Bowring - the oldest municipal course in England - for six months having previously been a charge hand on the course and before that a landscaper for 10 years. He is currently studying towards NVQ Level III Sportsturf and was last year's Student of the Year as well as BALI Award winner in '96. Tommy, who is a D32 assessor, has also been involved in the setting up of a Greenkeepers' Academy at the course with the aim of training and finding employment for 12 apprentice greenkeepers. His interests include golf, painting and sea fishing.



**Name:** Michael Bush  
**Age:** 23  
**GC:** St Mellion  
**College:** Elmwood/now Cannington

Michael is Deputy Superintendent at St Mellion having previously been an Assistant for four years. When he left school he worked for a landscaping company, but having lived in St Mellion all of his life he has seen the club grow and it was always his ambition to work on it. With no vacancies he took a position with St Mellion Leisure a golf construction company to gain experience before a job became available. He has completed SVQ I & II at Elmwood and is currently undertaking Level III at Cannington. He is keen on golf, football and motorsport.



**Name:** William Collins  
**Age:** 32  
**GC:** Falmouth GC  
**College:** Cannington College

William was promoted to Head Greenkeeper at Falmouth a mere 16 months after starting at the club as a mechanic/greenkeeper. Since then he has introduced cultural and biological practices onto the course which in turn has reduced the spraying budget. He is currently completing his NVQ Level II but has his sights set on Levels III and IV and ultimately the Master Greenkeeper Award. He is a recent convert to golf but also plays football at senior level and is keen on DIY.



**Name:** Andrew Wood  
**Age:** 29  
**GC:** Singing Hills GC  
**College:** Plumpton College

Andrew is Assistant Head Greenkeeper at Singing Hills having previously worked at East Sussex National, Mid Sussex, and Plumpton College as a groundsman/greenkeeper as well as summer holiday work at the Dyke where he is a 2.5 handicap member. He also tasted work abroad, working at Leeuwenbergh GC, in Holland. He is currently studying towards NVQ Level III - Sportsturf Management. In addition to his golf he is keen on all other sports as well as DIY.