



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: Michael Keogh

Club: Glencorse GC

Position: Apprentice Greenkeeper (4th Year)

Age: 21

1. How long have you been a greenkeeper?

Three years

2. What education are you currently undertaking?

SVQ Level 3, Management Course (Evening Class)

3. Which one task do you most enjoy doing?

Cutting Greens

4. Which one task do you most dislike doing?

Strimming the burn

5. What job other than greenkeeping might you have ended up doing?

Police Officer

6. Who has been the biggest influence on your career?

My boss, Ian Bell, and ex first Assistant, Gordon Trotter

7. What would you do to improve the life of a greenkeeper?

A wide spread minimum wage structure for apprentices

8. What are your hobbies?

Golf, bowls, swimming and going to the gym

9. What do you get out of BIGGA?

Education Opportunities

10. What do you hope to be doing in 10 years time?

To be a Head Greenkeeper or Course Manager abroad

Chinese students graduate at Elmwood

Students from Shenzhen University in the South of China have completed their Professional Development Award for the Advanced Certificate in International Golf Course Management at Elmwood College, Cupar.

The 24 week course endorsed by the R&A; China Golf Association and the GTC was set up with the College's link with Shenzhen University in China.

Golf is a growing sport in China and the students who attended the college were very dedicated with a high work ethic.

On their return to China they will either work in the Golf Industry or education and training degree programmes being the first people in China to gain a Golf Course Management qualification. However, some of the students have made the decision to stay on at Elmwood College to further their qualifications, working at Golf Courses around the area, applying this to their HNC/HND programme.



Academy's abundant academic accolades

Success was the theme at Huyton Civic Centre on Merseyside when eleven members of the Knowsley Metropolitan District Council Greenkeepers Academy were presented with their NVQ Level 2 Certificates in Sports Turf, by the Mayor of Knowsley, Councillor Bob Maguire. Shaun Guinen was also awarded his prize for outstanding theoretical work and Darren Rickets collected his prize for outstanding practical work.

A bonus prize of a computer was given to the Academy by the Whiston Pathways Group.



The picture above shows eleven apprentices, Stephen Ellis, Shaune Gynane, John Lawrenson, Darren Rickets, John Morgan, Shaune Johnston, Charles, Johnson, Terry Daintry, Stephen Holmes, Daniel Carney and Lee Begley with their

awards, Paul Morton and Paul McGrail from Myerscough College, Terry Hill, Business Manager from Knowsley Contract Services and Councillor Maguire. The twelfth apprentice, Paul Goodman could not attend the presentations.

A bolt from the blue wreaks havoc

This picture ably illustrates the power of the lightning and the caution that should be shown on golf courses when thunder storms are in the area.

This tree was beside the 8th green of the Kingfisher course, at Mannings Heath Golf Club, and Course Manager Billy McMillan witnessed the strike.

"It was about 4.30pm around the middle of May and we were a quarter of a mile away when we saw it happen.

"We found debris from the strike 60 feet away some buried six inches into the turf which shows the sheer power," recalled Billy.

"It really does bring home to you the dangers that are around and the need to get somewhere safe during storms," he said, adding that some golfers refused to come off the course during the storm.

In fact that clubhouse was also struck and suffered damage.

