

## **IOG Awards Sports Turf Management Licentiate To Solihull Groundsman**

Mark Bailey, deputy head groundsman at Solihull School, Warwickshire, has been awarded a Licentiate in Sports Turf Management by the Institute of Groundsmanship (IOG), the leading membership organisation for grounds professionals involved in the management of sports pitches, landscape and amenity facilities.

The Award – comparable to NVQ Level 4 - is particularly suitable for team supervisors and first line managers, and it recognises those who have had at least five years' experience in the industry, having already achieved a Level 3 qualification.

Mark Bailey, who has worked at the school for the past eight years, has a strong background in horticulture.

He attended the Isle of Ely College of Further Education and Horticultural Institute where he gained a NCH and a National Craftsman Certificate in nursery production. He is an associate member of the Institute of Horticulture.

His career has included periods both as a nursery manager and as the estate manager of a private residential estate. Also, he ran his own successful garden contracting business for four years. He is currently attending Warwickshire College part-time where he is studying for a Foundation Degree (FdSc) in Sports Turf Management.

"Gaining this award is important to me," he says, "because, although I have a horticultural background, having spent the last eight years working in groundsmanship, it is good to have my skills recognised at this level.

"It is essential to gain new skills throughout one's career."