

ADAM MCKINLAY

It is an honour and a privilege to have my efforts acknowledged in being nominated for this award. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the PGA Professionals in our region for their support, guidance and help over the years.

This year the coaching accomplishment which makes me most proud is also a source of sadness. Five students, whom for the past five/seven years I have shared a journey with, leave on golf scholarships to the USA. Whilst their achievements on the course have been significant, what makes me most proud, is the fact that they have committed to and achieved their first long term life goal.

Making a commitment at twelve/thirteen and then enduring and overcoming all of the distractions that teenage life present to achieve their goal by eighteen is a creditable achievement. The life skills gained in doing so are truly valuable. I am proud that our team has created an academic, sporting and social environment that helped these teenagers stay on track and achieve their goals.

The tinge of sadness I experience is that I will no longer have the opportunity of working with these exceptional youngsters on a daily basis. They have helped me to learn a great deal and provided our whole team with countless funny and fond memories. However this fleeting emotion is overshadowed by the knowledge that these five men are now more than ready to embrace the exciting new challenge that lies ahead of them.

As coaches we constantly challenge our students to grow and develop themselves by stepping out of their comfort zone. So it would be hypocritical if we as their coaches and mentors did not attempt to do the same. So this year I have broadened my coaching services beyond just golf.

For the past year I have been performance coaching a select group of elite tennis players to make the step up from competing regionally to nationally and internationally. Being involved in a new sport and culture has provided me with a wealth of new experiences and insights. As well as the opportunity to share experiences and learnings with more coaches across different sports.

In addition to just coaching sports people I have begun playing a more active role in using sports coaching techniques within our Cambridge International School, McKinlay Reid. We have implemented a coaching and mentoring culture within the school. Helping and supporting students to learn skills such as how to goal set, periodize and plan their schedules, review their performances, deal with pressure etc. The response has been promising to date and again I am learning a great deal about the differing motivations and challenges that face this generation of youngsters.

Finally, we are working with two tennis and six golf academies to help them to develop their own US College Scholarships programme. Facilitating coaches to work together to create viable and sustainable pathways into and within the game is one of the most pressing challenges our industry faces. Lone coaches and academies cannot achieve what we as a collective can. We are simply better together. I am proud that our team not only has created a programme which provides life changing educational opportunities through golf and tennis. But that we are sharing it and helping others to grow and develop with us.