BIGGA's quiet man takes control

The current 'in' joke amongst members of the board of management, indeed amongst all those involved in the management of BIGGA in all of its multifarious activities, is the one concerning the outgoing chairman, who goes from being the high profile Mr Roy Kates to that of yesterday's man, the who d'ya mean Mr Roy Who? Roy Kates has delighted in 'milking' this joke for all it's worth, after all it's only meant in fun and is of his making. That stated, it is a fact that the feeling of demotion following a year of hyper activity can affect different people in different ways, some taking it more in their stride than others.

John Crawford, our new 1993 chairman, will I know forgive me if I describe him as 'the quiet man' of BIGGA, for on first acquaintance he appears the very essence of intensity, a 'still waters run deep' type. Those who take the time to dig a little deeper, however, will find that he hides behind a streak of wicked humour which surfaces on numerous occasions. Having watched him and listened to his often caustic wit over the past year or two, I predict that whilst John Crawford may well begin his year of office as the quiet one he'll surprise us all, for like those illustrious and high profile chairmen in whose footsteps he follows, he'll come through as being anything but a John Who?

Who, then, is this man of quiet countenance? Certainly he's a modest man who admits to a dislike of tape recorders, of being interviewed. His fellow board members will nevertheless aver to his having made a distinct mark in BIGGA affairs, a stand up, speak up and shut up sort of fellow who thinks carefully before committing his thoughts for public consumption, but one who has positive views and ideas that are his alone, never a 'yes' man.

John, true Scot and archetypal canny Fifer, began his greenkeeping career in his native county, joining Aberdour GC at the age of eighteen as a humble assistant under the eagle eye of John Robb, the now retired head greenkeeper whose name is always spoken with reverence and one who d'ya mean Mr Roy Who? Roy Kates has delighted in 'milking' this joke for all it's worth, after all it's only meant in fun and is of his making. That stated, it is a fact that the feeling of demotion following a year of hyper activity can affect different people in different ways, some taking it more in their stride than others.

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