Tribute to Richard Aitken Senior

It is with a sad heart that I write this obituary to Richard Aitken Senior. Dick, as he was known throughout Scotland, started his long career as a representative for Austin and McAuslan's. I first remember him in 1947 when he did his calls by bus, train and walking. None of the reps in these days had cars. Dick though he was lucky if he made more than two calls a day then. He served throughout the war in the Army and saw action in France and Belgium. On returning he again took up with Austin and McAuslan.

It was always a pleasure to get a quarterly visit from Dick. We never considered that he was there to sell, it was more like a visit from an old friend who brought with him the news from the other golf clubs. I never remember him pressing for an order and whether or not he got one he never seemed upset. I used to make remarks about his car. He would look aghast and say the price it cost, as if it belonged to someone else. He was never presumptuous. Dick Aitken never changed. He was the same quite man I knew 50 years ago.

In 1963 Dick went into business for himself opening up a place in Waterloo Street in Glasgow. From there he never looked back. He took his son Richard into partnership and they moved to more roomy premises in Stockwell Place. Finally they moved to new purpose-built premises in Harmony Row, Govan, where anyone could see Dick in his office any time they called - he had time for everyone. His Seeds and Fertilisers and golf course supplies business expanded to the whole of Scotland and the North of England.

I am sure in his latter years he was a very proud man although he never showed it. It was a sad day for Dick when he lost his wife after a long illness five years ago. He retired about three years ago, living a quiet life at home until he was hospitalised, where he died on Friday, February 2, aged 84.

I am sure greenkeepers all over Scotland and England will feel that with Dick Aitken's passing another era in greeningkeeping has passed. At this time in his family's grief our sincere condolences go to all his family especially to his son Richard, his daughter Grace and their families. I know I speak for many when I say "Goodbye old friend, until we meet on that big golf course in the sky".

Cecil George

Fundraising efforts pay off for Matthew

Matthew Fell, the son of Tiller's Turf's Tim Fell, who was the victim of a horrific brain disorder, is now well on the way to recovery.

The current popular trend in the Far East would probably cause most greenkeepers to have nightmares - the potential for 24 hours play with wall-to-wall floodlighting!

The four home nation players who will represent the Rest of the World in the inaugural Hayter International Cup at West Lancashire Golf Club in September have been named.

Mature golfers are a strange mix of the old and the new, as anyone who has been in a golf club in Scotland and England will feel. As the economy booms, golf courses spring up like magic, and demand for golf is soaring. Everyone has confirmed their participation and the event looks certain to become a fixture on the international greeningkeeping calendar. The event will be played every two years alternating between the United Kingdom and the United States.

The first Hayter International Cup will be played at West Lancs on September 16.

One the domestic front preparations are well advanced for the Hayter Challenge Final to be played at Fairhaven GC on September 18.

The event is well supported and debate within BINGA Headquarters has seen a fine array of trophies chosen to present to the victors which should adorn mantelpieces for many years to come.