Sad passing of Ian Forbes

Ian Forbes, Links Manager at St Andrews Links Trust, died last month in the St Andrews Memorial Hospital. He was 45 and had been ill for some time.

As Links Manager, Ian had responsibility for managing the maintenance and running of the golf courses — greenkeepers, starters, rangers, the caddie service, ordainers, engineering workshops, property management, and stores, as well as retaining responsibility for championships.

In addition, he managed all the developments on the Links including the Eden and Jubilee Greenkeeping Centres, the Golf Practice Centre, the Caddie Pavilion, the Eden Clubhouse and the installation of the new irrigation system.

During his time as Links Manager, the condition of the courses improved dramatically, as did the facilities and services, enhancing the reputation of the Links throughout the world.

"Ian's contribution to the management and improvement of the Links in recent years cannot be overstated. He was a superbly effective manager, of both people and projects," said Alan McGregor, General Manager at St Andrews Links Trust. "His commitment to making the Links better for golfers was outstanding and he took enormous satisfaction from the improvements in the quality of the courses and the development of the courses of people reporting to him. Ian's achievements will have a lasting impact on the Links."

"The Trust has lost an invaluable member of staff and his colleagues have lost a great friend and mentor known for his dedication, warmth, and humour. The loss of Ian is a tragedy for his wife, Elaine, and their two children and our deepest sympathies go out to them."

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SSGA Challenge Cup (Scratch), David Leith, St Andrews, 74. Friendship Trophy (Best Nett) Steven Frost, Royal Aberdeen, 67 nett. Ransomes Trophy (Cat 1) James McCormack, Kirriemuir, 70. Nigel Kidd, Keith, (74(BIH)); 3. Archie Dunn.

BIGGA Scottish National Tournament

Played over the Hawkshill Course, Newmachar, by kind permission of the Board of Newmachar GC, the Scottish National Tournament enjoyed overhead conditions which were extremely kind, with a warm and sunny day and a slight breeze to make things slightly tricky. Quite a change from the conditions we have had in the last two years.

Newmachar has only been open for 10 years and during this time has progressed to be one of the finest tests of golf in the North of Scotland.

The condition of the course was superb and this was due to the fine effort and hard work by the greenkeeping staff, led by Dale Robertson. With 26 holes and a full size driving range and 20 bays, the staff at Newmachar have plenty to keep them occupied.

Scottish was always going to be very difficult with a course playing its full length of 6,600 yards, but, nevertheless many excellent scores were returned.

This year's Champion, with a fine round of 74, was David Leith, of St. Andrews.

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