A Frustrating Start to the Season

At long last there's been some sort of normality about the weather. Cold, windy and rainy. Yes, that's more like we are used to and, unlike the golfers who are playing the course but like my fellow greenkeepers, I'm pleased.

At the time of writing it has been the most difficult and frustrating start to a season that I can ever remember. The grass is going almost backwards and one doesn't normally experience this heading towards the end of May. But no doubt by the time you read this page I expect we will have grass around our ears and will be struggling to keep up with everything.

Unfortunately I have attended three funerals within the past two weeks with one of them being a staunch BIGGA member, Alex Robertson, Head Greenkeeper at Grangemouth Golf Club. The number of people who attended the service, many of them from the greenkeeping world, speaks volumes for how popular Alex was and how his absence is going to be felt.

I also have just learnt today of the death of Mark McCormack, probably the greatest innovator in sports management and a man who was rightfully known as the most powerful man in sport. As a young lawyer he offered to manage Arnold Palmer's career and so founded IMG. Arnold Palmer went on to become the greatest name in sport in virtually every top name in sport, not just golf. In golf, IMG were also responsible for the Sun classic in The Open of 1977 produced, some say, the most exciting Open in history. Just the appearance of Jack Nicklaus and Tom Watson will provide the excitement. Their epic Dual in the

Floyd, Gary Player and Arnold Palmer are competing but for many the appearance of Jack Nicklaus and Tom Watson will provide the excitement. Their epic Dual in the

Sun classic in The Open of 1977 produced, some say, the most exciting Open in history. Just the appearance of Jack Nicklaus and Tom Watson will provide the excitement. Their epic Dual in the

I suppose by now most folks' diaries are filling up, I do know one thing. With a busy and important schedule ahead my priorities must lie at Turnberry until the Tournaments are over.

As I write this report Derek Wilson and his crew are busy preparing Irvine Bogside for the Tournament as the qualifying is being played over our second course, the Kintyre. With Barrassie further up the coast also being used as another qualifying course I am sure Brian Finlayson and his crew will produce a first class test.

As I write this report Derek Wilson and his crew are busy preparing Irvine Bogside for the Tournament as the qualifying is being played over our second course, the Kintyre. With Barrassie further up the coast also being used as another qualifying course I am sure Brian Finlayson and his crew will produce a first class test.

As I write this report Derek Wilson and his crew are busy preparing Irvine Bogside for the Tournament as the qualifying is being played over our second course, the Kintyre. With Barrassie further up the coast also being used as another qualifying course I am sure Brian Finlayson and his crew will produce a first class test.

As I write this report Derek Wilson and his crew are busy preparing Irvine Bogside for the Tournament as the qualifying is being played over our second course, the Kintyre. With Barrassie further up the coast also being used as another qualifying course I am sure Brian Finlayson and his crew will produce a first class test.

As I write this report Derek Wilson and his crew are busy preparing Irvine Bogside for the Tournament as the qualifying is being played over our second course, the Kintyre. With Barrassie further up the coast also being used as another qualifying course I am sure Brian Finlayson and his crew will produce a first class test.

As I write this report Derek Wilson and his crew are busy preparing Irvine Bogside for the Tournament as the qualifying is being played over our second course, the Kintyre. With Barrassie further up the coast also being used as another qualifying course I am sure Brian Finlayson and his crew will produce a first class test.