Still the Sun Shines

Sunday July 10, Belleisle, The Harry Diamond Memorial Quaich. Again the sun splitting the trees, not to mention a few bald heads suffering for lack of sun tan lotion. Golfers have got to the stage where they expect a good day for Harry’s Quaich and we have never had a bad one. We feel that Harry must have some influence up there since for the past five years the weather at Belleisle has been perfect for golf on that Sunday in particular.

At 9.30am 130 golfers, good, bad and indifferent, stood on every tee on the course awaiting the blast from the claxon to engage in the struggle to secure the Harry Diamond Quaich for their foursomes. Stableford is an excellent way to play a sociable game of golf, not for the perfectionist, but it gives the sluggers a chance to do their wee bit even if you can’t get out of the odd bunker and you hit the odd ball astray, someone else in the team getting the 1, 2 or 3 points to keep the team’s peckers up. The great thing about a Stableford shotgun start is that we all finish at the same time and, believe it or not, everyone, or nearly everyone, waited for the presentation.

This year Harry’s brother, Hugh, presented the prizes to the runners up. The Quaich was won by Steven Mason, Darren Dunlop. F. Alexander and J. Wilson and Harry’s wife, Jessie, presented them with their prize. Harry had a big family of daughters. They were all at Belleisle to assist in any way, from mixing with golfers to just sitting around and smiling and being pleasant. I asked the girls: “Were there any boys in the family?” I was told by many coy looks: “There are two.” Sometimes being a male can be hell.

As I have said in past years, it gives me a lift to know that the Belleisle Club and the Diamond family work for a year brings this very popular golf tournament to the memory of Harry to a successful conclusion which they most certainly have achieved this year.

It would be amiss of me if I did not mention the condition of the course. Billy Fulton and his staff are to be commended for the improvement of Belleisle over the past five years. It is a course well worth a visit to any greenkeeper passing that way, and if courtesy and respect shown to the six greenkeepers who played in the Competition are anything to go by I am sure you will get a homely Ayrshire welcome.

Another year has slipped away and another Harry Diamond Memorial Quaich Tournament has been won by worthy golfers. We look forward to 2006 to again play in this competition to the memory of a great friend and greenkeeper.

Cecil George, BIGGA Life Member

YOUR LETTERS ARE REQUESTED!

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