This year’s Scottish National Tournament was held in the North East of Scotland at Murcar Links Golf Club, Aberdeen on Thursday, 17 June 2010.

During its 100 years Murcar has hosted many tournaments and frequently features in the top 100 courses in the U.K. In 2007, the Golf Tourism Scotland “Course of the Year - 2007”.

Overhead conditions were perfect, with a breeze just to make things interesting typical links conditions. Entry was slightly down on the previous year but the players in attendance were looking forward to playing this fine links course. After the most severe winter in almost 30 years Brian Anderson and his staff are to be congratulated on producing a course in excellent condition for the tournament.

Despite the windy conditions several fine scores were returned with the BIGGA National Champion of 2007 and 2008 David Simpson, Crieff Golf Club, returning a fine 72 to the club.

A day of celebration was held on 17 June when Directors Richard and Jim Smith, Rigby Taylor, 88-15-73; Charlie MacDonald, 72. Total=287; Patrons/Birch, 71; Archie Dunn, 72; David Simpson, 72. C 21 91 Dick Allen Trophy (Best Head Greenkeeper) Archie Dunn, Auchterarder GC, 77-72; M&M Trophy (Best Assistant) Mike Carson, Caird Park GC, 70-71-75; Struther Trophy (Best Apprentice) Gregg Patterson, Royal Aberdeen, 86-68-73; SQA Trophy (Most Improved) Elliott Small, Life Member, 85-11-74; St. Mungo Trophy (Team Event) Tom Rowan.

Congratulations are in order for Tony Cundall, General Manager for Campsey Turf Care Systems, as this year marks the 20th anniversary of him joining the Macfie-based company.

A celebration was held on 17 June when Directors Richard and Jim Smith, Rigby Taylor, 88-15-73; Charlie MacDonald, Crieff Golf Club, 72. C 21 91 Dick Allen Trophy (Best Head Greenkeeper) Archie Dunn, Auchterarder GC, 77-72; M&M Trophy (Best Assistant) Mike Carson, Caird Park GC, 70-71-75; Struther Trophy (Best Apprentice) Gregg Patterson, Royal Aberdeen, 86-68-73; SQA Trophy (Most Improved) Elliott Small, Life Member, 85-11-74; St. Mungo Trophy (Team Event)

IF YOU WANT THE BEST GOLF COURSE EQUIPMENT FOR YOUR COURSE CHOOSE TACIT
THERE IS NO OTHER BETTER.

20 Years of Unbroken Service Recognised by Campseys

Captain Hugh Stuart and his committee for the facilities and courtesy offered to the players and the support given by the staff and secretary at the club.


So far, so good?

Six months of my term as Chairman have now elapsed and the messages people kindly send to tait@taitpool@hotmail.co.uk have prompted me to consider where we are now and where we need to be going.

By way of brief explanation BIGGA has an elected (volunteer) Board who are responsible for policy making and implementation. The Board determines the duties of the Chief Executive (CE) who then administers the Association’s affairs under the general instruction of the Board, i.e. the CE produces a Business Plan and supervises the professional HQ team to achieve the Business Plan.

It is an honour for me to serve this Association and to work with the Board and the HQ team. At the AGM in January the members attending indicated that they wanted me to take an active role in the business and gave me their mandate to work with the HQ team and our hard working volunteers in BIGGA to the best membership organisation anywhere (See my March column).

I freely admit – this is rather an “all-embracing” vision and one that will need continuous effort and attention. However, six months ago I expressed the belief that we already have the leadership, the professional HQ team and the infrastructure (people and volunteer) to achieve this goal and I still feel the same.

My confidence that we can achieve this aim was reinforced recently by Tracey Maddison at HQ who kindly gave me an excellent brief on how the business plan had displayed over the past 20 years,” acknowledged Richard. 

“I have never had a day off sick in all that time and have proved myself a loyal and dedicated member of our team.”

4: Dialogue and Engagement

I am grateful to the Board for all that they do to represent the aspirations of their members at all levels.

I will encourage Board members and HQ staff to ensure that we respond to this key challenge by supporting local volunteers with events development, i.e. the 17th Regional Open Days; BIGGA Volunteers Workshop at Harrogate week 2011. Please also see my March, April and June columns.

5: CEO is a broker of good ideas for the Board

I am grateful to the Chief Executive who has not only brokered good ideas but seen their wider potential e.g. expanding the ‘Careers Clinic’ at Harrogate Week into a ‘Careers Fair’ complete with Job Wall.

6: Organisational Adaptability

Although a small outfit like BIGGA HQ may be vulnerable to sudden skills shortages requiring an up-to-date Succession Plan and cover for key roles - its size means it can move more swiftly - adapt to unforeseen market conditions - optimise the way it delivers its services.

I will actively encourage your Board to ensure that the Association’s organisation and resources, as well as its products and services, are aligned to its mission.

7: Alliance Building

I am grateful to the Chief Executive for his hard work over many years to build meaningful partnerships with key trade and sporting bodies.

I will actively encourage your Board to ensure that we continue to form advantageous alliances with organisations in the golf sector.

So far, so good!

In closing let me mention that your Board recently honoured Cecil Greenwich with the BIGGA Lifetime Achievement Award.

The vision of Cecil and people like him who helped develop formal training for Greenkeepers continues to help BIGGA to be where it should be i.e. in the forefront of the advancement of the greenkeeping profession.