There is a Scottish anomaly whereby if there are too many Johns within the one family, that some are called Ian or Jack. In 1961, Ian was born into such a family, the fourth son of Jack and Rita McMillan. Some are called Ian from the day he was born (known as Ian from the day he was born). He had a wicked sense of humour. We as a family remember when he was 15 years of age and only allowed to ride a 125 Motorbike with limited speed, he polished his helmet to see if he could squeeze a bit more pace. Ian was always looking for more pace whether it was golf greens or motorbikes.

The last time Scotland won rugby’s Triple Crown, so long ago I can’t remember the date, Ian and Gareth Roberts were shooting their heads off in their local pub, surrounded by Englishmen, who decided they should both be thrown into the duck pond. Gareth was faster than Ian and escaped, Ian was captured by the English. They allowed him to remove his wallet from his pocket and was then thrown into the duck pond. He had it worth every minute.

He daily attacked the crossword puzzle in his occupance and there was a photograph of him sitting beside the dog and presenting himself with the most troublesome questionnaire.

He liked a pint and I am sure all his friends in the pub will miss him. It is so sad to feel his local may now go into liquidation.

He, like most of us in this crazy greenkeeping industry, loved the company of fellow greenkeepers, Harrogate being one of them.

He loved the banter and the bond we share with one and other in this greenkeeping industry, Ian did.

His greatest love was for his immediate family of wife, Karen, sons, Callum and Daniel and daughter, Hannah, and of course the large family of McMillan’s here.

When at Hankley Common in 1997, Ian won the Tom Excellence in Greenkeeping Award and in the same year the IGGA Environmental Award, sponsored by Amazerama; the two top awards of their day. Ian was invited to join David Kidd, who had designed the new prestigious Queenwood Golf Club, in Surrey, during the construction and grow-in of this fine new golf course. Whereby, he shared with one another that course during one of the wettest winters we have experienced.

In addition to which, their work was allowed down establishing grass cover on this very acute sandy medium. I believe the success in achieving a well-received fine golf course here was one of the highlights of Ian’s career.

On the retirement of this family’s good friend, Clive Cogas, at Walton Heath, Ian was again invited to get back to his first love in golf courses, the heathland, where he was to spend some seven very happy years at the very fine old golf club. Walton Heath is the current venue in Europe for the qualifying rounds of the US Open, and will host the British Seniors Open Championship in the coming year, which he was looking forward too before we so sadly lost him.

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The McMillan Family