Norrie Whytock Trophy

The annual competition for the Norrie Whytock Trophy took place at the usual venue Auchterarder Golf Club recently. With a full compliment of five teams taking part, the weather at the beginning of play was quite favourable and some excellent scoring was recorded. Although the weather deteriorated near the end of play, this did not hinder the field and the good scoring continued till all the players were finished. Archie Durn and his staff are to be congratulated on producing a first class golf course.

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with a total of 104 pts, team members R. Macnic, Newmachar GC, J. McCormack, Kirriemuir GC, R. Pirie, Newmachar GC and finally D. Middleton, Desdege GC, who recorded the best individual score with 41 pts.

The team prize was accepted by Jim McCormack on behalf of the North Section from Kenny Liddell, Bayer's representative in Scotland.

Scottish Chairman Stuart Taylor thanked Kenny Liddell and Bayer for once again sponsoring this year’s tournament.

The Association wish to record on their thanks to the Captain and Committee for the courtesy and facilities and to David Smith, Managing Secretary for his assistance.

Next year’s tournament will take place on 16 August, 2012.

Peter J. Boyd
Regional Administrator


AGM Notice

The GTC, in association with the EGU is hosting three further workshops as Assured Training Providers, in association with the EGU is hosting three further workshops as Assurance Training Providers, to present these workshops. Comprehensive course notes will be given to all delegates attending the workshop.

To view the programme visit www.the-gtc.co.uk

November 25 Roundprke Park Golf Club, Kent; January 26, Oakdale Golf Club, North Yorkshire; February 22 Cold Ashby Golf Club, Northamptonshire. Further dates still to be announced.

The GTC has engaged the services of Laurence Phaie, MG, and one of its Quality Assured Training Providers, to present these workshops.

Singing the Greens

Paul Carella, an Assistant at The Richmond Club, in London, is making quite a splash as a singer and recently competed in a National Open Mi contest.

“I sung Ring of Fire by Johnny Cash and one of my original songs called Red Sole Woman,” explained Paul.

“I didn’t get through this time, but my performance has generated interest from a couple of record labels.

Paul has been singing seriously for two years playing pubs around London and has had two of his own songs from his first album, Outlaw, on an American radio show, Hostelhoss, based in Texas.

I had two top 20’s minutes out of the best 350 songs of each year: 2009 and 2010. These songs were called, A Letter For My Brother and Driller. I also did a guest dj appearance on the show and I’ll be back on again next year,” said Paul, who also played at Guiltfest this year, where Stuaceit, Roger Daltry and James Blunt were among the acts.

You can check out some of Paul’s original songs at www.myspace.com/paulcarrilla and keep up to date with his music at paul carrera-music on facebook.

Chairman’s Word

National Chairman, Andrew Mellon, gives his thoughts for the month

Changing seasons

Well, winter is officially here, and already we have had a few frosts to contend with. When you read this the clocks will have changed, and the daylight hours drastically reduced. Going to work in the dark, as usual, but coming home in it also, is not far away.

The changing seasons add variety to the job, and every year throws up something new for us to deal with. Last year was the prolonged snow and ice, what is it going to be this year? It’s good at this time of year to reflect on the season past, and learn from what went well, and what didn’t.

In some ways in the UK we are fortunate with the climate we have to operate in, with less of the pests, diseases, temperature and drought extremes which they suffer else-where in the world. But it is not without its disadvantages. We do, on the whole though, manage to produce decent playing surfaces for the majority of the year, some with more difficulty than others due to their soil types, drainage, resources, etc.

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The CEO, Jim Croxton, has been working hard with the team on the Strategic Review, and is starting to share his findings with the Board. This review cannot be done alone and we require the co-operation and assistance of the section committees. We shall be contacting them to help in this process.

If you look back at how the Association formed, it was by like minded individual members seeking out help and advice from colleagues, understanding that collectively they could achieve and learn more than in isolation.

In a similar way, we would like to ask the sections to support us in learning more about the members we have and how the sections are functioning. You will be doing your Association a great service by helping in any way you can with this work.

As the Association has grown, and the workload increased, we have relied more heavily on the work of our employed staff. However, there are elements of being an Association which rely heavily upon you, your members – playing a part, which will make it stronger and of more benefit not only to you, but to every Greenkeeper.

Please, if asked, do what you can to help. In my greenkeeping career I’ve been fortunate to say that I have never had a Greenkeeper refuse me help. Not many profes-sions would be able to say that, and that is why we are such a strong Association.

I hope to see as many of you this year at Harrogate as possible.

The Chief Executive and the Board will be presenting some of the plans for the future of the Association, based on the Findings of the Strategic Review. It would be good to hear your initial feedback and any further views at that time.

Meantime, please feel free to contact myself or any Board member if you wish to discuss these matters further.

My best regards,
Andrew Mellon
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