



## Changing of The Guard

Following a dramatic conclusion to the 37th Curtis Cup, a ceremonial changing of the guard has taken place at The Nairn Golf Club. The handover, which marked the conclusion of an exceptional 31-year tenure, saw golf course manager Iain Carson pass on the reigns of the club's proud greenkeeping tradition to Ritchie Ewan, his deputy of 25 years.

In a career spanning more than three decades at the Highland course, Iain Carson masterminded a Walker Cup, Scottish Amateur Championship, a Seniors Amateur Open and one of the most keenly contested Curtis Cups in recent times.

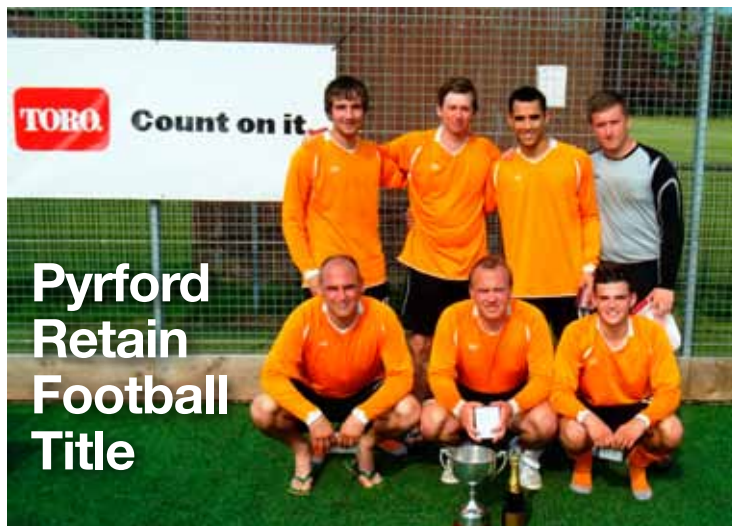
"One of the biggest changes has been the development of Nairn from a relatively small club in the north of Scotland to one that is recognised throughout the world," he said. "We are all part of a team here, committee and management, and we have all been involved in bringing the club forward."

The staging of the Curtis Cup coupled with the club's highest entry (23) in Golf World's recently published Top 100 Golf Courses in Britain & Ireland has ensured Mr Carson leaves on a high. "For me, having the Walker Cup here in 1999 and getting the Curtis Cup in 2012 has been a great honour. No other club in the north of Scotland has had both of these events and it means Nairn is one of only ten clubs to host both," he said. "It has been a fantastic adventure which I have enjoyed from the start."

In what many see as a continuation of what came before, the new keeper of the green will be tasked with ensuring the famed Highland links preserves its reputation for its exceptional greens. Discussing his new position, Ritchie praised his former boss and looked forward to the future.

"It has been a privilege to work alongside Iain for the last 25 years," said the club's new golf course manager. "He has worked hard to achieve the playing surfaces that we have at Nairn which are admired by so many. This shows through in how the course is presented and the feedback we get from the members. My job will be to continue this tradition so that Nairn can be enjoyed long into the future."

It's not just the members who enjoy the club's smooth-running greens. Former Ryder Cup captain Colin Montgomerie is also a fan, describing Nairn as "one of the best links courses in our great country", while World Number One Luke Donald said he "considered it a great test of links golf and one of Scotland's best courses".



## Pyrford Retain Football Title

With the only goal of a cagey final which looked destined for penalties, Pyrford Golf Club saw off the challenge of West Hill Golf Club to retain the JSM Cup.

The preceding rounds of very competitive 5-a-side football were played out during one of the warmest days of the year. The commitment of all the teams led to penalties having to decide 2 of the quarter final matches as well as the semi-final in which Pyrford sneaked past Cuddington Golf Club. West Hill defeated Queenwood 2-0 in the other semi-final.

Before the presentations could take place a penalty shoot-out also had to decide the winner of the 'golden boot' for tournament top scorer. Zane Percival (Pyrford) narrowly defeated Ben Edwards (West Hill) during sudden-death penalties, both having finished level on 6 goals at the end of the final.

JSM's Managing Director David Cole remarked, 'The commitment and standard of play has been great to see, particularly on such a warm day. Our football tournament is turning into a great social event and we must thank Toro/ Lely UK for their support in making it such an enjoyable success'.

Entry to the JSM Cup was open to teams of greenkeeper's, groundsman and other turf and landscape professionals from around the south-east. First played for in 2008, the competition is held biannually.

## GTC ANNOUNCE NEW DATES FOR CHAIRMAN OF GREEN WORKSHOPS

The Greenkeepers Training Committee has announced three new dates and venues for their very popular Chairman of Green Workshops. Presented by Laurence Pithie MG the Workshops provide a first class introduction to the role and responsibilities of the Chairman of Green and are a must attend for all golf club officials who have responsibility for liaising with the course management team.

Events will take place as follows:

### Thursday 13th September 2012

at Priory Barn, Bridgwater College, Cannington Centre, Rodway Hill, Cannington, Bridgwater TA5 2LS.

### Thursday 20th September 2012

at Conwy (Caernarvonshire) Golf Club, Morfa, Conwy LL32 8ER

### Tuesday 25th September 2012

at Llanishen Golf Club, Heol Hir, Cardiff CF14 9UD.