JOHN’S CHARITY WHIZZ

John Hall, Golf Course Manager at Turnberry Golf Club, is running a half marathon for charity on October 6. John’s best friend has a son with Cerebral Palsy and he is a finalist for the Toro Student of the Year 2013.

Neil Fauble, Course Manager at East Herts Golf Club, has raised £640,000 for the Great Ormond Street Hospital and various causes through his work over the past 10 years. Neil said: “Seeing the cost of my friend’s son’s chair is restricted to a wheelchair, and has been helped out by Whizz Kidz - a charity who helps kids who have mobility issues.

Neil has been working at the club for over 10 years and has seen the development of the course from a nine-hole to a 18-hole layout. He has been involved in many aspects of golf course management, including turf management, nutrition, and irrigation. Neil has been a member of the Scottish Turf Managers Association (STMA) and has been involved in many of their events and initiatives.

TORO FINALIST SAM IS RADIO STAR

Sam Evans, Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Oakland Park Golf Club, appeared on Radio One recently as part of a regular feature called “Here all week.”

Early morning DJ Dev seemed fascinated by Sam’s job and the fact he is a finalist for the Toro Student of the Year 2013. But Dev seemed to be under the impression that greening is a matter of landscaping and occasional hedge trimming, so it was over to Sam to try and educate him. He’s been on TV, radio or in newspapers let Steve Castle know and spread the word.

PRIZE LIST

SOGA CHALLENGE CUP (SCRATCH CHAMPION) Gordon Sangster Catkin Braes 77 6 71

FRIENDSHIP TROPHY (NET CHAMPION) Iain McDonald Largs 68 2 66

RANSONES TROPHY – 1ST CLASS 1. Kenneth Mitchell St Andrews Links 77 5 72
2. Louise McIntosh Catkin Braes 77 5 72
3. Gary Tough Lochinvar Grange 73 +3 77

PATTISON TROPHY – 2ND CLASS 1. Martin Lothian Turnberry 82 12 70
2. John Watson Downfield 86 12 74
3. Iain McDonald Largs 85 10 75

STIHL TROPHY - (M. VES JUBILEE) – 3RD CLASS 1. John How Cardross 90 15 75
2. John Wilson Irvine Bogside 94 18 76
3. Michael Macdonald East Kilbride 98 22 76

DICK ATKIN TROPHY – BEST HEAD GREENKEEPER Derek Wilson Irvine Bogside 71 +1 72

DICK TROPHY – BEST ASSISTANT David Simpson Crieff 81 +5 77

SIGGA TROPHY – BEST VETERAN Archie Dunlop Auchterarder 79 5 74

ST MUNO TROPHY – AVRYSHIRE SECTION Iain McDonald Largs 66
Martin Lothian Turnberry 70
David Wilson Irvine Bogside 72
TOTAL 281

QUAICH – TRADE PRIZE David Nelson Nelson Vecchio 77 5 72

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFIERS
Scottish: Gordon Sangster Catkin Braes Golf Club
Net: Iain McDonald, Large Golf Club

ROUTE 66 WINS SCOTTISH NATIONAL

This year’s Scottish National Tournament was hosted by Large Golf Club on Thursday 13 June and drew an excellent 62 competitors from all over Scotland who benefited from glorious sunshine throughout the day. A parkland course, it was originally designed as a 9-hole course before becoming a full 18-hole in 1953. Playing to its full length from medal tees it covers some 6150 yards with a par of 70 and a CSS of 71. This year, we had our own version of Iov Robson on the first tee to announce each player. John Sheddon has worked with the PGA on a number of their events and kindly agreed to participate adding a touch of class to proceedings. First on to tee at 11.15am was a guest, Gordon Clarke from West Kilbride Golf Club.

Subsequent guests then took every 9 minutes until the very last guest at 2.15pm comprising an East/ West combination of George Wilson & Toby Burns. Gordon Sangster from Catkin Braes Golf Club produced a magnificent gross score of 66 that included an eagle, 4 birdies and only 2 bogies. Gordon managed to get to the turn in only 29 blows narrowly missing out on a short putt for the 28.

Not to be completely overshadowed by Gordon, Iain McDonald on his home course recorded a great score of 68 gross and less than 2 handicap won our Friendship Trophy with a nett 66. In addition to winning the trophies, Gordon and Iain will have their entries to the BIGGA National Tournament at Priddin Heath paid for them and will receive expenses towards travel and accommodation.

There was one common theme shared by all competitors on the day, their unequivocal praise of the golf course condition. Our whole-hearted congratulations are reserved for Iain Barr, Course Manager and his team for producing an excellent facility for the competition. Even the tricky position of the 18th flag, thanks to George Morrison for that one, didn’t diminish the players’ admiration of the course.

Throughout our day we were treated to a very warm welcome by Keith Howie (Secretary), Andy Fulien (Professional) and the other members of the team. Andy O’Hara, Scottish Chairman, was on hand at the end of the day to thank the captain Brian Fulton, the committee, Keith and everyone else for the tremendous hospitality that was received and presented a Quaich to the club as a thank you for the courtesy of the course and clubhouse.

Keith thanked Andy and reaffirmed the club’s delight at hosting this event and for the hard work of all greenkeeping staff required at golf courses throughout the country.

Congratulations to all who took part and we hope to see everyone at next year’s championship at Renfrew Golf Club on Thursday 12 June.

John Young
GI NEWSDESK
The latest news from around the globe

GI CHARITY WHIZZ

Neil Fauble, Course Manager at East Herts Golf Club, has mastered 25 years at the parkland course and says he’s loved every minute. Neil joined the club straight from school and served a four-year apprenticeship. He continued to work at the course - and his career - before becoming Course Manager ten years ago.

He said: “I used to watch The Masters when I was a kid and marvelled at how fantastic the golf courses looked. I thought ‘someone’s got to look after that’, and that’s how it all started.

“I’ve loved every minute, the best thing about the job is there is a different challenge every day. Of course it’s very, very hard work and there’s so much to get involved with, for example today I’ve been painting fence posts. But when you get great feedback from golfers it makes it all worthwhile - we recently had a members match versus a local club and the visitors said the course looked superb, which was so satisfying to hear.

“But my main priority is to keep the people who pay their annual fees happy.”

He added that members had recently asked him where the club’s finances had been directed, so Neil and his team made a point of putting all their machinery on show during a competition.

He said: “They generally only see one guy on a mower so they were amazed we had so much kit when they walked past, and began to understand where their membership fees were spent. “It’s all part of communicating with them, because if they don’t like the club they will leave, simple as that.”

TRIO FINALIST SAM IS RADIO STAR

Sam Evans, Deputy Head Greenkeeper at Oakland Park Golf Club, appeared on Radio One recently as part of a regular feature called “Here all week.”

Early morning DJ Dev seemed fascinated by Sam’s job and the fact he’s a finalist in the Grosvenor Game. But Dev seemed to be under the impression that greenkeeping was “someone’s got to look after that, because if they don’t like the club they will leave, simple as that.”

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John Hall, Golf Course Manager at Tewkesbury Park Hotel & Country Club, is running a half marathon for charity on October 6.

John’s best friend has a son with Cerebral Palsy and is restricted to a wheelchair, and has been helped out by ‘Whiz Kidz’ - a charity who help kids who have mobility issues.

John said: “Seeing the cost of my friend’s son’s chair really opened my eyes. As well as paying for the chair John had to widen the door frames in their house to accommodate it, and also buy ramps.

This charity helps kids who have mobility issues.

‘Whizz Kidz’ - a charity who help kids who have mobility issues.

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This year’s Scottish National Tournament was hosted by Largs Golf Club on Thursday 13 June and drew an excellent 62 competitors from all over Scotland who benefited from glorious sunshine throughout the day.

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This year, we had our own version of Ivor Robson on the first tee to announce each player. John Stoddon has worked with the PGA on a number of their events and kindly agreed to participate adding a touch of class to proceedings.

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The standard of golfer taking part was very high with more than half the field being single handicappers. Indeed it proved to be one of the lowest handicaps that turned in the performance of the day to win the Championship trophy. Gordon Sangster from Catlinham Buses Golf Club produced a magnificent gross score of 66 that included an eagle, 4 fours and only 2 bogies.

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Congratulations to all who took part and we hope to see everyone at next year’s championship at Renfrew Golf Club on Thursday 12 June.

John Young

PRIZE LIST

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RAINESBROOK TROPHY – 1st CLASS
1. Kenneth Mitchell St Andrews Links 77 5 72
2. Dougie McIntosh Catlinham Buses 77 7 75
3. Gary Tough Lochinver Orange 73 3 75

PATTISON TROPHY – 2nd CLASS
1. Martin Lochinver Orange 82 12 70
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3. Iain Barl Irvine Bogside 85 10 75

STYR TROPHY (M. VIES JUBILEE) – 3rd CLASS
1. John Hay Cardross 90 15 75
2. John Wilson Irvine Bogside 94 18 76
3. Michael Macon East Kilbride 96 22 76

DICK AITKEN TROPHY – BEST HEAD GREENKEEPER
David Simpson Crieff 81 4 77

DICK AITKEN TROPHY – BEST ASSISTANT
David Simpson Crieff 71 +1 72

SOGA TROPHY – BEST VETERAN
Archie Darr Auchenaterlie 79 5 74

ST MUNO TROPHY – AVRYSHIRE SECTION
Iain McDonald Largs 66
Martin Lochinver Turnberry 70
David Wilson Irvine Bogside 72
Derek Wilson Irvine Bogside 73
TOTAL 281

QUAICH – TRAVEL PRIZE
David Nelson Nelson Vecchio 77 5 72

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFIERS
Scratch: Gordon Sangster Catlinham Buses Golf Club
Net: Iain McDonald, Largs Golf Club

TOTAL 281
INNOVATION CORNER!

We’re still hunting for the unusual innovations greenkeepers have on their courses – and Stuart Yarwood, Course Manager at Lynnm Golf Club, has several! He said: “When out deep stirring weekly during the winter we found the slitter removes the dew off the greens but left a little strip one inch wide in between the rear rollers. One of our lads, Robert Cooper, fitted a scrap piece of astro turf to cover the gap, and brush the little strip of dew off as he went along, leaving the surface right for our visitors and members.

“The next is our drainage trench gravel filling machine, or ‘Nellie’ as we call her, (after the elephant). It’s a piece of plywood attached to traffic cone with a length of hose belted on. We can drop the tail board on the workman and fit this in seconds. Then when we have excavated our drainage trenches, and installed the pipe, we can back fill the trench, by straddling the trench with the workman, with large or small gravel in a fraction of the time by hand and without spilling a drop. Saves on shovels and backs.

“Thirdly, we found that some drains were capping over with grass clippings, wear and tear over time, and we needed to unclog these. We tried with half moons but by hand but it was very slow. We needed to unclog down 6” till we hit the clean gravel then we could replace with clean dirt and restore the effectiveness of the drain.

“So we purchased an old Sisis turf cutter (18” wide turf) and chopped and rewelded the cutting blade so that it can cut 5” wide. We also decided to retire but Russ is staying on as Section Chairman.

“Now we have a young energetic Committee taking over headed by Simon Oliver of Percy Wood GC I would ask all members to give him a bit of support as he’s working very hard on pushing the Section forward. Other members are Glen Baxter, Michael Conn, David Wilkinson and James Parker.

“New competitions are being arranged as well as lectures and seminars for the Autumn and Winter so do support the North East Section as much as you can.”

JIMMY LEAVES NORTH EAST SECTION

Jimmy Richardson has left the North East Section after many years of service. He said: “Having served as Section Secretary I dogsbody I have decided to retire from all section duties and would like to take this opportunity to thank Past Committee members for their support over the years.

“Special mention to my other two helpers Steve Pope and Russ Black. Steve has also decided to retire but Russ is staying on as Section Chairman.

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CHALARA ASH LATES

Dr Terry Mabbett updates us with the recent news about Chalara ash dieback

Chalara ash dieback has been firing warning shots at the UK government’s management plans but the two latest salvos were right on target.

The first shot was fired in 2011 as part of the three main planks of Defra’s Chalara Management Plan below the water line, while the salvo from Devon was a top deck direct hit.

First main plank of Defra’s Chalara Management Plan (March 2013) is the creation of a disease free zone of counties around the western edge of England comprising Cornwall, Devon, Somerset, Gloucestershire and up through the West Midlands.

Underpinning the programme is assistance to forest and woodland owners of recently planted ash confirmed with chalara. They will be given grants to dig up and destroy the ash trees and plant with alternative species. General idea is to slow the westward spread of the disease from current hotbeds in East Anglia and Kent/ East Sussex.

Even if this generosity had been extended to the amenity and landscape sectors including golf courses (Greenkeeper International May 2013), and used to cover all recently planted ash (healthy as well as infected), success was unlikely considering this pathogen is disseminated by airborne spores and the sheer ubiquity and frequency of its common host.

Recent events are proving this thinking to be right. In May 2013 Chalara ash dieback was found in the wider Welsh environment at Ferrybridge (south of Caernarfon town) in Caernarfonshire.

This leaves the door wide open for spores to be picked up and carried eastwards into western England by strong south westly prevailing winds.

But that is all ‘red herring’ thinking since chalara was actually identified in the west of England wider environment in July 2013 in woodland between Exeter and Tiverton in Devon.

Forestry Commission (FC) did not reveal the exact location, although BBC Devon said the outbreak was at Byway Farm near Tiverton. According to the BBC, FC said the disease must have been on these trees when they were planted in 1996/1997.

This is highly unlikely. After 16-17 years the disease would have already spread far and wide. In 1996/1997 Chalara ash dieback disease was still confined to Poland and Lithuania, and unlikely to have arrived early in the UK on imported planting material. In those 16-17 years it has moved westwards from Poland to reach Pau de Calais in France.

BEST NEWS!

This month’s featured blog is from Leigh Swann, Head Greenkeeper at Trentham Park Golf Club.

He started the blog using ‘blogger’ which is free and enables you to post pictures and videos to it completely free. It’s connected to your Google account so everything blends in well, and is easier to use.

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The advice would be give greenkeepers thinking of setting up a blog.

“Take your time deciding on what you want. Try to get it integrated into the club’s website, so its easier for your members to find.”

See for yourself at http://trenthamparkgolfclub.blogspot.co.uk

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If you wish to publish your blog details please send them to: Andy James, Cornwall Golf Club, High Beach, Hayle, Cornwall. Tel: 01326 210771. Email: andy@itcpower.co.uk
INNOVATION CORNER!

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“After improving the drainage, I stuck a traffic cone with a length of hose into the ground with a probe, and mark the centre. We mark the centre of the tractor bucket, we drop the implement into the ground and it shaves out the waste material on top of the drain line to a depth of 6” to clear gravel. This is simply forked off onto a waiting cart and away to our compost heap. Really saves a monumental amount of time in a soul destroying task. I feel it’s hugely important to find an efficient way of doing tasks both from an operations and moral point of view.”

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Among the things that have worked out best is the ability for members to comment on the blogposts. So if they don’t understand anything they can always ask!

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