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, voted 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 typical vote the Golf Tourism Scotland “Course of the Year - 2007” best.”

Congratulations are in order for Tony Cundall, General Manager for Carnoustie Golf Links, for his efforts in making the tournament a huge success. Carnoustie Golf Links is one of the best courses in the world and is known for its beautiful setting and challenging holes. Tony’s leadership and dedication to the tournament and the players were evident throughout the event. His commitment to providing an excellent experience for everyone involved is truly admirable.

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

Results: SGGA Challenge Cup (Scratch Champion) Ben Brookes, Crieff Golf Club, 79-9-70; Ransome Trophy (First Class) J. Derek Green, Royal Aberdeen, 76-5-71; 2. Charlie MacDonald, Crieff GC, 75-3-72; 3. George Mitchell, Newmachar GC, 75-7-73; Patterson Trophy (Second Class) J. Richard Pirie, Newmachar GC, 83-10-75; 2. Billy Craig, Kirkintilloch GC, 83-10-75; 3. Gary Semples, St Andrews Links, 87-11-76. STRI Trophy (Third Class) J. Lewis Birch, St Andrews Links, 91-20-71; 2. Hugh McLachlan, Peterhead GC, 110-21-89; 3. Brian Hunter, McDonald GC, 112-21-91. Dick Allison Trophy (Best Greenkeeper) Archie Dunn, Auchterarder GC, 77-5-72; M&M Trophy (Best Assistant) Mike Carson, Caird Park GC, 75-5-70; Pattison Trophy (Best Head Greenkeeper) Archie Dunn, Auchterarder GC, 77-5-72; M&M Trophy (Best Assistant) Mike Carson, Caird Park GC, 81-7-74; Snitter Trophy (Best Apprentice) Craig Pattison, Royal Aberdeen, 86-12-74; SGGA Trophy (Best Volunteer) Elliott Small, Life Member, 85-11-74; St Munro Trophy (Team Event)...
Early indications are that Apprenticeships will remain although the new Government has yet to confirm where funding support, if any, will be focused to benefit employers and learners.

The GTC has ensured the Apprenticeships at both Levels 2 and 3 include the skills and knowledge required by employers and whilst these frameworks are available for all ages, when it comes to funding support, it is the young 16-19 age group, where priority funding is guaranteed.

I am sure we all agree that funding should be made available to ensure youngsters either receive support through their employers registering them as an apprentice with a Centre, or on a full-time college based course/qualification such as a National Certificate when they are unable to gain employment.

However, what about the over 19’s and the mature career changes who would lose out to follow the apprenticeship pathway? If funding support is not available to employers they might unfairly be discriminated against!

The GTC will continue to raise this matter and Centre staff have to be prepared to react as and when new initiatives are announced.

Ideally we would see funding made available to support apprentices of all ages and funding for short courses using the Units from within the various qualifications.

Regular readers of this page will know the GTC, through consultation, maintains the National Occupational Standards (NOS) for the greenkeeping sector from which vocational, apprenticeships and centre based qualifications are developed.

We sincerely hope that the new Government will continue to follow a similar path now that they have been elected.

The current Government continues to support employers led organisations like the GTC who, despite the bureaucracy and numerous hours of meetings, work within the “system” therefore the employers we represent should be supported accordingly.

There are far too many apprentice success stories to list in this article but it is still as important today as it was when I first became an apprentice in the mid-sixties. Not that I am claiming to be one of the success stories!

Let us hope that within all the promised funding cuts, training doesn’t receive any and our employers continue to invest in their staff of all ages.

Not only has the GTC continually lobbied for support funding for all formal qualifications but has also encouraged the uptake of Continuous Professional Development (CPD) by greenkeepers and employers for short courses which must be the next target.

These short courses could easily be funded if the Government instructed its funding bodies to allocate Centres, including colleges to offer courses using Units grouped together, which can give the learner a certificate of achievement.

In my opinion there has been far too much emphasis on full qualifications and this has been to the detriment of many greenkeepers looking to progress their skills and knowledge in association with their employers.

The GTC, in partnership with the new Quality Assured Centres and Training Providers must be prepared to deliver short courses as these underpin all of the formal qualifications and National Occupational Standards.

If we could just get the Government to recognise the demand and popularity for short courses and at least put some funding towards this area of training, I am sure we will see the Centres move fairly quickly.

Whether we call it CPD or progression, learners will soon get used to this and the GTC will put its weight behind this matter at every opportunity.

At a very brief meeting I heard that “progression” would become a government buzzword for apprentices. If that does have to be assumed then this is just what the GTC has been lobbying for since its’ SVQ’s were introduced in the early nineties.

Employers’ efforts part, through their Course Managers should keep up with the various courses and qualifications as, that there is no substitute for having a well trained workforce.

Finally, from the 31st August there will be a new look to the GTC Approved Training Provider section on the website.

As part of its ongoing commitment to quality the GTC has written to all of its current approved providers with a revised criteria and an invitation to join the GTC’s Quality Assured Scheme.

Colleges and Private Companies meeting the criteria and offering the formal qualifications will, in future, be promoted by employers and learners as GTC APPROVED CENTRES.

A new criteria and category for individuals and organisations will be GTC APPROVED TRAINING PROVIDERS.

Watch out for the GTC Quality Assured Scheme logo from September, as it will be the key mark by which education and training will be measured in the future.

In Brief
This month, as the new Government has yet to confirm involvement with The Open, the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year regional interviews, the introduction of the new membership benefit, the “How To...” guides, there is no let up in August as the Continue to Learn education programme hits the top of the “To Do” list!

“How To...” Guides
Do you ever ask yourself these questions?

• How do I conduct a one-to-one meeting?
• How do I conduct a team briefing?
• How do I prepare for an appraisal?
• How do I recruit the right staff?
• How do I write a job description?

There are now 19 “How To...” guides available to help you answer these questions and more:

1. Cascade Goals to Teams and Individuals
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Introduced exclusively for BIGGA Members, you’ll find the guides by accessing Member Resources in the members area of the website. The “How To...” guides are brought to you thanks to the continuing support of the contributors to the Learning and Development Fund.

This last month the L&D Department has been heavily involved with The Open, the Toro Student Greenkeeper of the Year regional interviews, the introduction of the new membership benefit, the “How To...” guides, there is no let up in August as the Continue to Learn education programme hits the top of the “To Do” list!

The funding provided by Greenkeepers for Greenkeepers is used to help produce all of these guides and provide the wider golfing industry with useful training.

More young greenkeepers have been inspired to progress their learning by the GTC’s Quality Assured Scheme and the recent introduction of many initiatives which will help them ensure the long-term success of their training.

Higher Education Scholarships
Supported by Ransomes Jacobsen
The most recent scholarship has been awarded to Andrew Reason - HNC Golf Course Management

Thank you to our Golden and Silver Key Sponsors

Golden Key Individual Members: Steven Twarney; MG; Roger Black; Angus Campbell; MG; GSG; Martin Marsh; Tom Smith; Frank Newton; Christopher Lyon; MG; Lee Stow; MG; Silver Key Individual Members: Ade Archer; Ian Bower; Rolf Bond; Boggie; Steve Boocock; Paul Jenkins; Robert Meddick; MG; Richard McGlynn; Stephen Forre; Jason Grant; Neil Whitaker; Graham Wylie; Michael Williams, Douglas Ogilvie.
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The GTC is working to ensure that within all the promised funding cuts, training doesn’t receive any and our employers continue to invest in their staff of all ages.

Not only has the GTC continually lobbied for support funding for all formal qualifications but has also encouraged the take-up of Continued Professional Development (CPD) by greenkeepers and employers for short courses which must be the next target.

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The National Finals will take place at BIGGA House on 12 and 13 September. I’m sure you will join me in wishing all of the finalists the very best of luck.

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Supported by Ransomes Jacobsen

The most recent scholarship has been awarded to: Andrew Reason – HNC Golf Course Management

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Royal Cinque Ports GC, situated on the narrow stretch of coastline between Deal and Sandwich Bay in Kent, has added further Ransomes Jacobsen turf maintenance equipment to maintain the championship links course.

The club has added four G-Plex III ride-on triplex mowers, two with greens cutting units and two for tees, two Fairway 350s with cabs and an AR250 rotary mower for club use. The combination of equipment, high service levels from local dealer Ernest Doe & Sons and a finance plan that suits our business plan, is definitely the best package,” Ian Barnard concluded.

Etesia UK on the Move

Etesia UK is celebrating its 15th year of trading with a move to modern, custom built premises at Shenington near Banbury, Oxfordshire. The company required a larger warehouse and in-house training areas.

Etesia UK began in 1995 with only one walk-behind and one ride-on machine but have grown rapidly and now offer a wide range of products, that include a variety of walk-behind & ride-on mowers, and a range of brush cutters. The company is also the exclusive UK dealer for the range of Pellenc lithium-ion battery powered chainsaws, pruners, petrol hoes and hedge cutters.

The move has been brought about by a steady rise in sales since the company was formed. The move has been brought about by a steady rise in business and an increase in customers and machinery sales since the company was formed.

The contact details for Etesia UK are: Greenway House Sugnallow Business Park Shenington Oxford OX15 6HW. Tel: 01225 680120 Fax: 01225 688352.

Sherriff to be Sole Suppliers

Sherriff Amenity has signed a new extended agreement with De Vere Hotel & Leisure to remain the sole suppliers of chemical, fertilizer and grass seed to their golf courses nationwide.

Mark Pyrah, Sherriff Amenity Director said: “We are delighted that De Vere have chosen Sherriff Amenity to remain their exclusive suppliers.

“The agreement that has been reached will ensure that De Vere continues to benefit from volume group purchases, a high level of sales support and the latest in new product technology within the amenity arena.

“Sherriff Amenity’s industry leading research and development programme allows us to provide our customers with the latest in new technical innovation backed by our unrivalled range of products, selected from regional, national and international manufacturers.”

What’s your Number?

Our regular and random profile of an industry figure continues with this month’s lucky number...

1. What is your position within the company? Owner and chief coffee-maker.

2. How long have you been in the industry? As a journalist for 42 years. In the sports surface management sector 15 years.

3. How did you get into it? From school as a trainee reporter on a local paper. After various newspaper jobs, joined The Daily Mail for 10 years. Entered horticulture in the 80s while running a six-acre smallholding in West Sussex, and later freelanced on The Water Gardener and Turf Management magazines, followed by editing The Groundsman for 11 years.

4. What other jobs have you done? It’s all been journalism and public relations, plus photography — but my family were all farmers so I really do feel comfortable working outdoors. I’ve done my fair share of cultivating, growing and harvesting over the years.

5. What do you like about your current job? The opportunity to meet so many people who enjoy their work. Greenkeepers, groundsmen and gardeners all share a common passion for perfection and are all very friendly.

6. What changes have you seen during your time in the industry? The standard of professionalism has risen significantly, but the attitude remains the same: a common passion for perfection and a shared love of making golf courses look beautiful.

7. What do you like to do in your spare time? Pottering around auctions, adding to the clutter in my garage, gardening and golf — but not often enough.

8. Where do you see yourself in 10 years time? Still working! Unless my lottery ticket comes up and then I’ll be on my yacht in the Bahamas.

9. Who do you consider best friends in the industry? Cannot name them all – but they know who they are.

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ROYAL CINQUE PORTS STAYS WITH RANSOMES JACOBSEN

The Royal Cinque Ports GC, situated on the narrow stretch of coastline between Deal and Sandwich Bay in Kent, has added further Ransomes Jacobsen turf maintenance equipment to maintain the championship links course. The club has added four G-Plex III ride-on triplex mowers, two with greens cutting units and two for tees, two Fairway 305s and a finance plan that suits the best package, “Ian Barnard concluded.

The club have opted for a five year operating lease with full maintenance contract, which provides them with a fixed monthly cost and dovetails with their operating strategy. “This latest package, with its combination of equipment, high service levels from local dealer Ernest Doe & Sons and a finance plan that suits our business plan, is definitely the best package,” Ian Barnard concluded.

Ian Barnard is the Course Manager and a former professional golfer who turned to greenskeeping following a serious injury that curtailed his career. Commenting on the new equipment he said, “As you would expect from a links course we have a very undulating playing finish, while having the ability to work under these exacting conditions here at Royal Cinque Ports.

The latest turf industry news from around the globe

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EURO GRASS JOINS TURFGRASS GROWERS ASSOCIATION

The Turfgrass Growers Association has welcomed grass seed breeder, producer and supplier Euro Grass BV as a new affiliate member. Euro Grass is an international company which is active in turfgrass breeding and production in Denmark, Germany and the Netherlands. New to the British amenity market, its aim, through the recent appointment of Simon Taylor as UK Sales & Marketing Manager, is to offer a portfolio of amenity grasses that provides high level seed cleanliness and unrivalled cultivar performance for turf production. The company already has a number of cultivars established on the STRG/BRSPB seed listings.

Simon Taylor explained: “Our membership is very important as it enables interaction with growers members and to present Euro Grass and its products on a professional level. We are looking forward to working with the Association and turf growers to tackle some of the challenges which face the industry in current times.” Simon can be contacted on 01522 868946 or by email on simon.taylor@eurograss.com. www.turfgrass.co.uk

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Mike Beardall, of Oakfield Media, answers some searching questions

1. What is your position within the company?
Owner and chief coffee-maker.

2. How long have you been in the industry?
As a journalist for 42 years. In the sports surface management sector 15 years.

3. How did you get into it?
From school as a trainee reporter on a local paper. After various newspaper jobs, joined the Daily Mail for 10 years. Entered horticulture in the 80s while running a six-acre smallholding in West Sussex, and later freelanced on The Water Gardener and Turf Management magazines, followed by editing The Groundsman for 11 years.

4. What other jobs have you done?
It’s all been journalism and public relations, plus photography – but my family were all farmers so I really feel comfortable when working outdoors. I’ve done my fair share of cultivating, growing and harvesting over the years.

5. What do you like about your current job?
The opportunity to meet so many people who enjoy their work. Greenkeepers, groundsmen and gardeners all share a common passion for perfection and are all very friendly.

6. What changes have you seen during your time in the industry?
More science, better machinery and an increase in the recognition for people who produce top-notch sports surfaces and excellent parks and gardens.

7. What do you like to do in your spare time?
Pottering around auctions, adding to the clutter in my garage, gardening and golf – but not often enough.

8. Where do you see yourself in 10 years time?
Still working! Unless my lottery ticket comes up and then I’ll be on my yacht in the Bahamas.

9. Who do you consider best friends in the industry?
Can’t name them all – but they know who they are.

10. What do you consider to be your lucky number?
18 – the date of my son and grandson’s birthday.

11. Pick a number...31
Mike has picked Lee Penrose of the STRG.
A gamble pays off

Scott MacCallum visits Donaghadee Golf Club which has turned around its fortunes thanks to some brave decisions.
A gamble pays off

Scott MacCallum visits Donaghadee Golf Club which has turned around its fortunes thanks to some brave decisions.
Three years ago Donaghadee Golf Club, near Bangor, in Northern Ireland, took a gamble:

Losing members, with the course not maximising its potential, the club recognised that a change was needed and advertised for a top Course Manager to turn around its fortunes as well as setting aside a significant amount of money to invest in the course.

Local man, Aaron Small, who had been number two at Clandeboye Golf Club for the previous 10 years, was attracted by the prospect of making his mark on the course and took on the challenge. If it was indeed a gamble for both sides, fortune has certainly favoured the brave.

The course is now in superb condition with an extensive bunker programme nearing completion which has transformed the golfing experience. All in three short years.

“Aaron had been working with architect, Howard Swan, at Clandeboye for the previous 10 years, was quick to honour its commitment to the course after his departure. We were immediately aware of the club's commitment and were immediately impressed with his professionalism and approach. We were in the fortunate position of being able to attract the services of a top man in the golf business to turn the greens around, and the club will now be able to offer a top quality golfing experience to its members and visitors.”

Aaron had worked with architect, Howard Swan, at Clandeboye on 70 bunkers which had been well received by the members and felt that Howard could make an impact at Donaghadee.

“Tid of the club around six months before 1 approached them and I suggested that we make Howard in to take a look and they agreed.”

Howard visited and the club agreed that he would look at two holes, the visually appealing par-3 13th and the 18th, the two holes that would make the biggest impact.

“The downhill 13th was a bit unbalanced with one bunker on the front, one on the right and another at the back. Now it looks like a real signature hole with bunkers surrounding the green. With the 18th it meant people left the course thinking what a good golf course it was. The club was over the moon and the decision to extend it to the rest of the bunkering was easy,” said Aaron, or “Bunker Boy” as some of the members call him.

After that a programme which involved Howard visiting twice in the year, in February and October for three days with two holes being done each time.

“The course is a little below average length wise and there is no way we can make it longer so really the only way we can improve the challenge is to tighten the course up with the bunkering and make sure they are in the correct places.

“We put £20,000 in the budget each year which worked out at £5,000 per hole covering all architects fees, digger men fees, drainage, sand etc. I really enjoy working with Howard because he is on site the whole time and can make amends as we go rather than him leaving plans for us to interpret.”

“While this has been going on, we bought some excellent signs from Eagle Promotions which have been cemented in. They are wooden and have a map of the hole painted on them and look great. We get them sponsored for an average of around £500 each for two years – more far par-3s as they are studied for yardages more than others and the 1st is more as well. For the sponsorship we also get 20 rounds at Donaghade. This brings more people into the club to spend money at the club or in the shop so we benefit much to the delight of the members, they also get 20 rounds at Donaghade. This brings more people into the club to spend money at the club or in the shop so we benefit.

“While we’ve also got to contend with wind blow as well as the fact that some bunkers drain better than others. Then you’ve got to look at the fact that sun facing bunkers dry out more quickly, while those that are more in play will react differently to those that are not found so often. It is an impossible task to achieve total consistency.”

“The greens are our bread and butter. I took out about 210 bars of thatch and sanded them straight away to get them running true. It was the best thing for them.

“Having made an impact on the greens and added definition to the fairways Aaron then turned his attention to the bunkers.

“I was grubbing a greenside bunker on the 4th when the Captain came over. I pulled the hand grubber through the first time and it was HS Masters sand. I pulled it through again and it was Weddell White. The third time it was Silica. So basically there had been a problem with the Silica sand so instead of digging it out the Weddell had been put on top and when there was a problem with the HS it was put on top of that. It was good for the Captain to see what we were up to.”

“Category One golfers like them to be firm but harder handcappers like a bit softer and fluffier. But we’ve also got to contend with wind blow as well as the fact that some bunkers drain better than others. Then you’ve got to look at the fact that sun facing bunkers dry out more quickly, while those that are more in play will react differently to those that are not found so often. It is an impossible task to achieve total consistency.”

While this has been going on, other areas of the course haven’t been neglected and have seen an upgrade.

“We’ve improved the signage and made money,” explained Aaron.

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The course is now in superb condition with an extensive bunker programme nearing completion which has transformed the golfing challenge and a new practice facility which will surely become the envy of many others. All in three short years.

“The course was lacking definition to be honest while the bunkers were in serious need of attention – they were old, in the wrong places with inconsistent sand,” said Aaron, who had played the course a number of times both as a junior and a senior team player.

“Basically the course was behind the times but credit to the club, they appreciated that something needed to be done – the nettle was grasped and money spent.”

“I knew, coming here, that it was going to be a challenge but I certainly wasn’t daunted by it.”

Aaron had been honest at his interview, highlighting where he thought the problems were, and that was music to the ears of the interview panel, who knew then that they’d get their man.

“I personally believe that the Head Greenkeeper needs to play golf otherwise it’s like a chef who doesn’t taste his own food. If I’d been a member of Donaghadee I wouldn’t have been happy and I could understand why people were leaving,” said Aaron, a 4-handicapper who hits the ball a country mile.

The first thing he did when he started was, as with most new men, turn the greens around, and the club was quick to honour its commitment with around £80,000 worth of new machinery, which has since been added to by another £70,000 worth of kit.

“Before I started they had one guy stuck on a three unit rough mower and it took him a full week to cut the rough. We now have a seven unit mower and we get the work done in a day and a half. We were immediately saving three and a half days’ worth of wages each week which meant that the machine basically paid itself and we got a better quality finish,” said Aaron, who couldn’t believe how hasty the course was when he arrived.

“It thought it must have been Open week as we regularly have 600 people out between Friday and Sunday and I’d been used to Clandeboye, which had two courses to swallow up the galleries.”

“The greens are our bread and butter. I took out about 210 boxes of thatch and sanded them straight away to get them running true. It was the best thing for them.”

Having made an impact on the greens and added definition to the fairways Aaron then turned his attention to the bunkers.

“Specifically the course was behind the times so the nettle was grasped and money spent.”

Aaron firmly believes that bunkers are the toughest element of a golf course to get right and that it is certainly harder to get bunker consistency right than it is green consistency.

“Category One golfers like them to be firm but鉴别able handycappers like a bit softer and fluffy. But we’ve also got to contend with wind blow as well as the fact that some bunkers drain better than others. Then you’ve got to look at the fact that sun facing bunkers dry out more quickly, while those that are more in play will react differently to those that are not found so often. It is an impossible task to achieve total consistency.”

With the bunkers on track and due to be completed in another four visits, there is a steady improvement much to the delight of the members, despite the fact that it has made the course at least a shot tougher.

“We’ve improved the signage and made money,” explained Aaron. “We bought some excellent signs from Eagle Promotions which have been cemented in. They are wooden and have a map of the hole painted on them and look great. We get them sponsored for an average of around £500 each for two years – more for par-3s as they are studied for yardages more than others and the list is more on other areas of the course haven’t been neglected and have seen an upgrade.”

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70 bunkers which had been well received by the members and felt that Howard could make an impact at Donaghadee.

“T’d been in the club around six months before I approached them and suggested that we talk to Howard in to take a look and they agreed.”

Howard visited and the club agreed that he would look at two holes, the visually appealing par-3 13th and the 18th, the two holes that would make the biggest impact.

“The downhill 13th was a bit unbalanced with one bunker on the front, one on the right and another at the back. Now it looks like a real signature hole with bunkers surrounding the green. With the 18th it meant people left the course thinking what a good golf course it was. The club was over the moon and the decision to extend it to the rest of the bunkering was easy,” said Aaron, or “Bunker Boy” as some of the members call him.

After that a programme which involved Howard visiting twice in the year, in February and October for three days with two holes being done each time.

“The course is a little below average length wise and there is no way we can make it longer so really the only way we can improve the challenge is to tighten the course up with the bunkering and make sure they are in the correct places.

“We put £20,000 in the budget each year which worked out at £5,000 per hole covering all archi-

tect fees, digger man fees, drainage, sand etc. I really enjoy working with Howard because he is on site the whole time and can make amends as we go rather than him leaving plans for us to interpret.”

Asked to describe a Swan bunker Aaron explains that they fit in well with the landscape and that they are built in proportion to the scale of the golf course.

“Visually they look excellent but they do require a bit of maintenance as they need to be hard nailed.”

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You can play it as a six hole or a nine hole course," said Aaron, who added that the project was given funding by Sports Northern Ireland.

"There were strict tight deadlines for every stage of the project which, if missed, would have caused the funding to be withdrawn but we met every one."

The new area will be administered by the Pro Shop, with a booking system ensuring that there are not too many people on it at any one time, and schools will be invited to bring enthusiastic children to the area to receive lessons from the professionals and hopefully ultimately become members.

"It will also be a great warm up for those with a later tee time and we will have matches for the various groups within the club – juniors, ladies, seniors etc. It will help to bring the club closer together while sharpening up our short games, Aaron said.

Howard is extremely impressed by the vision of Donaghadee Golf Club and the commitment that has been required to get it done.

"The achievement at Donaghadee is immense and has been fully supported by the public purse very gratefully and it is excellent news for the heartland of golf and golf development that the Government feel it is important enough to support us in this way," said Howard.

"It seems to me that many, many golf clubs do not make good use of their practice facilities, however comprehensive they might be, and much comes down to the fundamental philosophy of the club to see new blood coming into the game. Donaghadee has been very enterprising in looking at this innovative approach to swell their membership, both adult and junior, and they have been very successful indeed in doing this on both counts," he explained.

With the new short game facility to manage, which requires hand mowing of the greens, Aaron operates with a team of six including himself with summer help bringing that number to seven.

"I'm over the moon at the way things have worked out and delighted at the way the club has supported me. They gave me the job and let me get on with it which is exactly the way to a successful club. Pay the professionals to get on with the job," said Aaron.

Perhaps it wasn’t such a gamble after all for Donaghadee Golf Club.