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35

Iain's on

**Scott MacCallum discovers
that local knowledge proved
the key to success in the
Scottish National Tournament**

It wasn't so much a long journey for many of the competitors who travelled to Royal Dornoch for the Scottish National Tournament but more of a pilgrimage.

The course has long been recognised as one of the best in the world with many of golf's superstars, including Tom Watson and Masters Champion Ben Crenshaw, both of whom are Honorary Members, making visits whenever their schedules allow.

It is just its location, 45 miles north of Inverness, which has stopped it from gaining more widespread recognition.

However it drew Scotland's greenkeepers like a magnet and rewarded them with a day unlike many the summer of '95 had dished up. Sunshine and a brisk breeze meant the course was seen at its absolute, devilishly difficult, best.

It is not surprising therefore that the best scoring came from those who knew the course and the area best.

Iain MacLeod of neighbouring Tain clinched the SGGG Challenge Cup for the best scratch with a magnificent 77 clinching it with a better inward half from

George Patterson of Fortrose, another course not a million miles away. Third just a shot behind was Robert Patterson the Course Manager at Dornoch and the recently crowned club champion.

Iain MacLeod's 77 was exemplary for two reasons. He was in the last group out when the wind was at its height and he succeeded in not being dragged down to the inadequate depths of one of his playing partners. Iain played magnificent golf despite having to witness some appalling stuff from this journal's Editor, who thoroughly enjoyed his first visit to the course but found his Heath Robinson swing no match for the might of Dornoch off the back tees in a breeze.

The Royal Dornoch Club made everyone exceedingly welcome with Secretary John Duncan and Green Chairman, Rollie Biuck, both playing in the event and Captain Alan Ramsay on hand to present the prizes.

The tournament was magnificently organised by Elliott and Edna Small to whom a great deal of thanks is due and thanks must also go to caterer John Boyd and

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**Scottish Region Chairman Gordon Moir putts up the 1st watched by Rollie Biuck
Royal Dornoch, Green Chairman**

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MacLeod nine...

SCOTTISH NATIONAL TOURNAMENT



RESULTS

SGGA Challenge Cup (Best Scratch) Iain MacLeod, Tain, 77

Friendship Trophy (Best Nett) Elliott Small, Tulliallan, 79-8-71

BIGGA Challenge Bowl (Best Head Greenkeeper) Robert Patterson, Dornoch, 78-3-75

M&M Trophy (Best Assistant) Simon Crawford, Gleneagles, 82-7-75

Souter Trophy (Best Apprentice) Scott Aitchison, Prestwick St Nicholas, 94-16-78

SIGGA Trophy (Best Veteran) Alex Wallace, Dollar, 89-10-79

Ransomes Trophy (First Class) 1. Eoin Riddell, Dornoch, 83-8-75; 2. Paul Murphy, Downfield, 81-5-76; 3. George Patterson, Fortrose, 77-1-76.

Pattisson Trophy (Second Class) 1. Sam Morrison, Royal Aberdeen, 84-9-75; 2. Brian Cocker, Alyth, 90-14-76; 3. Douglas Boyle, Aboyne, 87-11-76.

STRI Trophy (Third Class) 1. Robert Napier, Camperdown, 96-24-72; 2. Hugh McLatchie, Peterhead, 100-21-79; 3. Wilson Morrison, Alford, 97-18-79.

Guest Prize Rollie Biuck, Royal Dornoch, 83-6-77

Trade Prize Jim Darling, Vitax, 79-4-75

St Mungo Trophy North Section.

Putting Prize Andrew McRae, Royal Dornoch.



The Royal Dornoch clubhouse and, inset, our tournament winners: back row, from left: John Duncan, Simon Crawford, Eoin Riddell, Scott Aitchison, Sam Morrison and Robert Napier. Front: Robert Patterson, Alan Ramsay, Iain MacLeod, Elliott Small and Gordon Moir

his staff, Robert Patterson and his team for producing a course at its splendid best, and the many sponsors who ensured that the prize table, in Captain John Duncan's view, almost rivalled Dornoch's own Trophy cabinet.

"It was a great golf course and a

great occasion," said Elliott Small. "Royal Dornoch Golf Club made us so welcome from the moment we first arrived, and some of us arrived on the Saturday for the Monday start till the last one left on Monday night – probably the Editor (*Not guilty. I think that*

honour might have belonged to Mr R. Patterson – Ed). We thank them all and also the hospitality of the local people who are so friendly and hospitable.

"What a place for the BIGGA National Tournament next time it's in Scotland," said Elliott.