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Sad passing of Jimmy Coffey

Jimmy Coffey died in Stobhill Hospital in June. He was 75 years of age.

In years gone past he was a staunch member of SIGGA. After many years of service on the committee of the West Section he was elected Chairman where he had a happy and successful time.

Jimmy started his working life as a greenkeeper under his father, Bob Coffey, at Balmore Golf Club. The war intervened and Jimmy joined the Royal Navy where he rose to the rank of Petty Officer and saw service in the Far East. On return from war service he again took up his position at Balmore. After a short spell he applied and secured the Head Greenkeeper's job at Kirkhill. He had a few years there before his father retired from Balmore Golf Club and Jimmy was requested to go back as the Head Greenkeeper. This he did willingly and spent the remainder of his working life at Balmore until his retirement in 1990.

One of Jimmy's greatest loves was the study of nature. There was not a

bird, flower, tree, beast or fish that he did not know. In his younger days he was a fair golfer and picked up many prizes at our golf outings at a handicap of six. He was especially fond of fishing and travelled all over Scotland fishing many of the salmon rivers and lochs.

Like most greenkeepers he enjoyed his work. Together with his duties as Head Greenkeeper he ran the Pro shop at Balmore. Often over a dram, he and I would discuss our relative courses, and, as the evening went on, we always came to the same conclusion - what lovely courses we would have without the golfers.

I will remember Jimmy either on some well stocked salmon river up to his haughs, or wandering up some Highland burn looking for deep pools where the trout were lying.

Jimmy is survived by his ever caring and loving wife, Marian, and his son Robert and family. All of us who knew Jimmy extend to all his family our sincere condolences.

Cecil George, Lenzie

Is there help at hand?

I obtained your email address through the BIGGA website and have taken the liberty of contacting you in the hope that you may be able to help me.

My name is Michael Harris and I am 23 years old. I currently live in Lesotho, Africa and would like to move to the UK to further my career. Last year I studied and passed a course in Sports Turf Management through the auspices of the Pretoria Technical College (Technikon) in South Africa and during this period I held the position of Assistant Greenkeeper at the Services Golf Club in Pretoria.

I believe it would benefit me greatly to gain more experience in the UK as either an assistant or apprentice on one of your courses or any other sports turf related facility.

I would greatly appreciate it if you could give me the address of anyone who might assist me in achieving my goals.

I am a British citizen and hold a British passport.

I thank you in anticipation of your assistance in this matter.

Michael Harris
Email: terryel@ilesoto.com

Worrying: Duguid legal case

Thursday June 1st will long be remembered by Dougal Duguid, his family, friends and greenkeepers worldwide. Common sense prevailed, a man and his family were able to breathe easily again and a profession was left to ponder what will come next.

It is unfortunate that we live in a society now where litigation is a growing trend. Just listen to the radio adverts that openly encourage people to sue and it is worrying.

As a colleague who knows Dougal from my visits to Harrogate, I congratulate him on his success and wish him and his family happier times than they have had during this long and worrying case. We must all learn from this case and its serious implications, even though Dougal rightly won. As he said, what if...?

Alexander McCombie
Parkstone GC, Poole, Dorset
Via email

