

Attention to all BIGGA HOUSE visitors

Visitors to BIGGA HOUSE over the next three months should be aware that the famous Aldwark Toll Bridge will be closed for renovations and to be sure to look out for the diversion signs.

Sad passing of Ian Forbes

Ian Forbes, Links Manager at St Andrews Links Trust, died last month in the St Andrews Memorial Hospital. He was 45 and had been ill for some time.

As Links Manager, Ian had responsibility for matters relating to the maintenance and running of the golf courses — greenkeepers, starters, rangers, the caddie service, orderlies, engineering workshops, property maintenance and stores, as well as retaining responsibility for championships.

In addition, he managed all the developments on the Links including the building of the Links Clubhouse, the Eden and Jubilee Greenkeeping Centres, the Golf Practice Centre, the Caddie Pavilion, the Eden Clubhouse and the installation of the new irrigation system.

During his time as Links Manager, the condition of the courses improved dramatically, as did the facilities and services, enhancing the reputation of the Links throughout the world.

"Ian's contribution to the management and improvement of the Links in recent years cannot be overstated. He was a superbly effective manager, of both people and projects," said Alan McGregor, General Manager at St Andrews Links Trust. "His commitment to making the Links better for golfers was outstanding and he took enormous satisfaction from the improvements in the quality of the courses and the development of the teams of people reporting to him. Ian's achievements will have a lasting impact on the Links.

"The Trust has lost an invaluable member of staff and his colleagues have lost a great friend and helper known for his dedication, warmth, and humour. The loss of Ian is a tragedy for his wife, Elaine, and their two children and our deepest sympathy goes out to them."

Ian graduated in business studies from Strathclyde University. A former college lecturer, he joined the Links Trust as Deputy Secretary in 1987 after five years at the Scottish Rugby Union. In the Trust's management reorganisation in 1992 he took on the role of Championships and Development Manager with responsibility for managing the planned major development programme and became Links Manager in 1994.

Northern Region Golf Tournament

This year the Regional Final was played at Fishwick Hall Golf Club, Preston. Teams representing the six Sections in the Region had been selected at the various Spring Tournaments. We were lucky with the weather once again, finding a dry slot among some very wet weather. The course was in excellent condition and was a credit to Paul Eddlestone and his staff.

The format was the best five nett scores from each team of six. Unfortunately, only one team, from North Wales, was able to turn out a full team on the day. For the second

successive year, the players from the North East were counted out from the start when only four competitors appeared. The four other Sections had five competitors and all their scores would have to count. The failure of players to advise their unavailability was disappointing to all their teammates, the reserves who were available and not least to the sponsors Richard Campey Limited.

As in the inaugural event in 1999, the result was very close and was decided on the last green. The winners were the Cleveland team of Jim

Thompson, Martin Woods, Ollie Shepherd, Ian Pemberton and Neil Rogers.

We would like to thank Richard Campey for his company's sponsorship and for his attendance throughout the day and Bert Cross who organised the whole thing.

The scores were:

Cleveland: 370
North Wales: 371
Sheffield: 377
North West: 393
Northern: 396

BIGGA Scottish National Tournament

Played over the Hawkshill Course, Newmachar, by kind permission of the Board of Newmachar GC, the Scottish National Tournament enjoyed overhead conditions which were extremely kind, with a warm and sunny day and a slight breeze just to make things slightly tricky. Quite a change from the conditions we have had in the last two years.

Newmachar has only been open for 10 years and during this time has progressed to be one of the finest tests of golf in the North of Scotland. The condition of the course was superb and this was due to the fine effort and hard work by the greenkeeping staff, led by Dale Robertson. With 36 holes and a full size driving range and 20 bays, the staff at Newmachar have plenty to keep them occupied.

Scoring was always going to be very difficult with a course playing its full length of 6,600 yards, but, nevertheless many excellent scores were returned.

This year's Champion, with a fine round of 74, was David Leith, of St. Andrews.

The following members were the winners in the various classes.

SGGA Challenge Cup (Scratch), David Leith, St Andrews, 74.
Friendship Trophy (Best Nett) Steven Frost, Royal Aberdeen, 67 nett
Ransomes Trophy (Cat 1) 1. James McCormack, Kirriemuir, 70; 2. Neil Kidd, Keith, 74(BIH); 3. Archie Dunn,



David receives his trophy from the greens convener Mr Peter Thomson

Auchterarder, 74.
Pattison Trophy (Cat 2) 1. Gavin Neill, Tain, 72; 2. Michael Reid, Peterculter, 78; 3. Stuart Syme, Leven Links, 80.
STRI Trophy (Cat 3) 1. Andy Wilson, Brechin, 73; 2. Brian Hunter, McDonald, 81 (BIH); 3. Hugh McLatchie, Peterhead, 81.
Dick Aitken Trophy (Best Head Greenkeeper) Robert Patterson, Royal Aberdeen, 73. M and M Trophy (Best Assistant) Derek Scott, Scoonie, 74.
Souter Trophy (Best Apprentice) Ian

Cowder, Tain, 74.
SIGGA Trophy (Best Veteran) Duncan Gray, Pines, 76.
St Mungo Cup (Team Trophy) North. Trade Pat Allan, Stewarts, 73
Guest P. Thompson, Newmachar, 71.

Once again our thanks to Newmachar CC for affording us the facilities of the course and clubhouse.

Peter Boyd

Ian gets regional promotion at Inturf

Inturf, the specialist grower of cultivated turf, has promoted Ian Collett to the position of Regional Coordinator dealing with turf installation projects. Ian, (pictured centre), is 36 years old, and was formerly Installation Manager for the York-based company.

Inturf's nationwide installation service means that the company's quality turf can be installed quickly on behalf of clients with limited or unskilled labour.

Inturf reports increasing demand for the service, which ensures the turf is installed to a similarly high standard as when it was grown at the company's dedicated nurseries.

