

ON THE GROOM SHE, BUT YOU YOUR NEED ON THE DESIGN OF THE

John Campbell

John Campbell, who was the first appointed Links Supervisor of St Andrews Links, passed away on June the 8th aged 84 making it a sad day for the greenkeeping industry.

CHANGES IN GREENKEEPING

By J. K. Campbell

THE BACK ROOM BOYS

The beautiful fairways, the well manicured greens, the immaculately raked bunkers. All these we have come to expect at an important event at a championship course. In this article J. K. CAMPBELL, the Links Supervisor at St. Andrens, describes some of the duties which the greenkeeper and his staff have to perform before, during and after a big event

John also wrote many articles for magazines, however his hobby was drawing cartoons for golf magazines, his most famous was portrayed in the golf illustrated monthly magazine, where you could see an irate ready to explode golfer standing on the green of the Road hole, looking at a huge steam roller flatten his golf ball, with the operator driving along without a care w the world

In 1974 John left St Andrews to take up employment at a 36 hole complex at Foxhills in Surrey where his vast experience in course management helped create a reputation for a complex, which staged some important events soon after it opened in 1975.

He remained at Foxhills for some time, then continued with consultancy work until he decided to retire.

John was a modest man, approachable and generous with his time, easily recognised everywhere with his tartan "bonnet" he will always be remembered for his unstinting contribution to the greenkeeping world. All of us on every golf course throughout the golfing world, send our sympathy to his family. Walter Woods



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John was initiated into greenkeeping at the early age of 15, working with his dad at Hilton Park, just outside Glasgow, and starting on a weekly wage of nine shillings. His first interest on leaving school, however, was commercial art which he studied at evening classes and through correspondence courses while he was still earning his keep as an apprentice greenkeeper.

With the outbreak of the Second World War John joined the Gordon Highlanders and unfortunately he was among those captured and taken prisoner by Rommel, along with most of the 51st Highland Division at St Valery France in 1940

When liberated by the Americans he again returned to work at Hilton Park with his father before joining Royal North Devon Golf Club as Head Greenkeeper. It was at this great Links that he met JH Taylor who won the Open five times and was runner up on six further occasions. They remained good friends for many years.

It was from this great club that he then moved to East Herts for a period before returning to Scotland and Longniddry Golf Club where he worked for five years. It was then that he took on the Job at the Home of Golf as Links Supervisor.

His first Open Championship was when "Champagne" Tony Lema came to St Andrews and astounded the locals by going out to play with barely an knowledge of the Old Course, using the local caddie Tip Anderson as his guide and winning the famous claret Jug. John's other Open was in 1970 when Jack Nicklaus beat Doug Sanders in the play off after Sanders had famously three putted on the final green.

During this period greenkeeping was treading water but golf in general

was about to become extremely popular. John was one of the first to recognise the importance of education to assist the greenkeepers to cope with the many golfers who would take up the game of golf. To achieve this he set up basic educational courses, which were the fore runner of the huge amount of education that many Course Managers require today. He was also an extremely good lecturer, speaking at many universities and other venues all over the world.

