

Your Letters...

Recycling for Comic Relief

As a representative of the recycling company Eurosource, I was delighted to be part of the recent Red Nose Day Recycling Appeal. Eurosource has pledged to recycle old mobile phones and empty inkjet printer cartridges to raise funds for Comic Relief - for everything recycled, we give money to this excellent charity.

I'd like to sincerely thank the readers who have already generously donated to the appeal - although it was only launched recently, there has been a great response. This innovative appeal doesn't ask anyone to part with their cash. They can simply donate something that would probably have ended up in the bin!

Unlike many fundraisers, it's not just the charity that gains - the benefits are far wider. Our environment is being damaged more and more by pollution and mobiles and cartridges contribute to this when they are binned because they end up in landfill sites. Recycling them allows them to be refurbished or refilled, and most importantly reused - many even end up in developing countries where landline infrastructure is scarce.

So readers, search your cupboards for your old mobiles, and please stop binning your inkjet cartridges! Instead, post them to Red Nose Day Recycling Appeal, FREEPOST NAT 1990, Falkirk, FK2 9BR.

Address labels can be downloaded at www.recyclingappeal.com/rednoseday where you can also find out exactly how much will go to Comic Relief for your old mobiles and inkjet cartridges - please note that we can't recycle Epson cartridges.

If you have an office at your club that has large toner cartridges please donate them too, but do not send them to the address above. Once you have 10 or more, give us a call on 08712 50 50 50 and we'll send a courier to collect them FREE.

Please post anything you wish to donate by April 15 so we can get the proceeds to Comic Relief on time - and thanks again to readers who have already shown their support.

Rob Morton, Eurosource

A Tribute to John Moffatt

John Moffatt passed away recently, aged 66, after a short illness and he will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

Born in Edinburgh, John moved to St. Andrews as a boy in 1947. Naturally, John took up the games of golf and rugby while at school and this is where his love for the outdoors and wildlife blossomed. After leaving school John headed back to Edinburgh to study Veterinary Science at the Royal (Dick) School before joining the Black Watch Regiment for the duration of his National Service. Again he was at times stationed in Edinburgh and one of his duties was to guard the main gates at Edinburgh Castle where on one day no one got through John without a proper pass!

Eventually his love for the outdoors took him back to St. Andrews, working for the town council and this is where the foundations were laid for a career in greenkeeping. Further moves to Stoke Poges, Lanark and Arbroath followed, all as Head Greenkeeper and since 1979 to Scotsraig, in North Fife, where John had prepared and presented four Final Open Qualifying events for St. Andrews. John served on the committee for the North Section of the then SIGGA also.

John's retirement from greenkeeping came about in early 2002 and he had spent much of his time walking the links courses with his dog, Mac, and playing golf with his companions. John's knowledge of wildlife, especially birds, butterflies and flowers, was always evident. He was also a long time member of the St. Andrews Golf Club and last year, after 50 years, he was presented with a gold medal from the Club to commemorate this.

His late claims to fame were that he won the family foursomes with three different family members, in 1998 he won the local and hotly contested Bing Crosby Tournament, the JK Wilson Trophy, his wife was St. Regulus Ladies Captain and his daughter won the Scottish Ladies Amateur in that same year.

We pass on our condolences and best wishes to his wife, Ann, and his daughter, Elaine.

George Paterson, Course Manager,
Scotsraig Golf Club

What makes a Consultant a Consultant?

I would like to offer a response to the recent letter in February's GKI, name and Club withheld, in answer to the above question. "There is no doubt that the level of professionalism and qualification within the greenkeeping industry has never been higher,

encouraged along the way by BIGGA and the Greenkeepers' Training Committee. I was therefore disappointed to read a recent letter, suggesting that: "We do not have specific standards for Consultants".

In January 2002, a Register of Independent Turfgrass Agronomists (RIPTA) was compiled to clarify the position of those Consultants in the industry able to supply independent advice and who meet the Registers' criteria. The criteria were carefully considered to ensure the client would receive advice from an appropriately qualified and experienced advisor in the field.

They include the need for applicants to hold a recognised plant or earth sciences first degree; recent experience must include at least four years' post qualification, acting as an Independent Consultant in the Turfgrass industry and have no association with any commercial organisation. Consultants, or their employer, must also have and maintain insurance, including Professional Indemnity insurance that satisfies the requirements of the Register Administrator.

There are many other Consultants in the field, including some associated with particular suppliers and manufacturers and the omission from the Register of any consultancy is no indication that it does not provide an excellent service."

Andy Cole BSc (Hons), MBPR, Keeper of the Register

YOUR LETTERS ARE REQUESTED!

Send to: Scott MacCallum, Editor, Greenkeeper International, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Aline, York YO61 1UF, or email them to: scott@bigga.co.uk