

# Your Letters...

## A Willing Helper

One cannot put into writing the loss of a good and helpful friend. Such a man was John Scott, Senior. He was always there to assist or just for a chat when and if he was required. I have known him to visit sick or retired greenkeepers long after most others had forgotten who, or where, they came from.

John seemed to keep tabs on everyone. If you had forgotten someone and if they required being brought to mind John was the one to get on the other side of the phone.

John was an Engineer of merit, who started his working life with ATGO at Larkball, which was near Lesmahagow, where John was born and bred. He worked out of Inverness for some years and had a great number of stories to tell about his Highland Station and the surrounding populace.

No matter where one met John he had a story to tell or a joke to pass on. If he happened to visit your golf club when you were cursing a machine that would not start, he would shove you aside and 'Hey Presto' the magic touch of the mechanic put life back into the faulty machine.

It is impossible to name all the little favours John Scott did for greenkeepers in the west of Scotland, but there are those of us who will remember him mostly at our AGM, where he would make the arrangements with his Bowling Club for a Games' Night to follow the AGM. He would see to the purchasing of Scottish Mince Pies which were heated and served halfway through these most enjoyable evenings.

John had a long drawn out illness, which he suffered bravely knowing that it was terminal. On Friday May 13, the funeral service was held at Dalnottar Crematorium overlooking the River Clyde. The Chapel was crammed full with John's relations and friends. I could not count the number of greenkeepers present whom John had touched during his working life.

He was a friend indeed who will be sadly missed. I know many greenkeepers in the west and further a field who would tell many a story in John's favour. This is the stamp of a man who took his profession very seriously while he canvassed his skills out to a few companies in Glasgow and the West of Scotland.

I know I am speaking for the whole of the greenkeeping fraternity when we send our condolences and deepest sympathies to John's wife and family in this time of their sad bereavement.

Cecil George  
BIGGA Life Member

## Martin Collins

Martin Collins passed away recently at the tender age of 37 and he will be sadly missed by all who knew him. Martin was a greenkeeper of 19 years, cutting his teeth at 16 years old at Woking Golf Club. He worked in Spain for a while, before joining his final club, Hershams Village Golf Club, in Surrey.

Martin made an impression wherever he went and whomever he worked with, all sang his praises highly. He was full of life, outgoing and passionate about his profession. His brother told me that Martin made greenkeeping sound like the best kept secret in the world, as he could not believe more people didn't do this wonderful job. Martin called greenkeeping a job of life, one you would want until retirement.

Many came to Martin's service, a sign of the respect he had, and he will be missed greatly.

Clive Osgood,  
Regional Administrator

## YOUR LETTERS ARE REQUESTED!

Send to: Scott MacCallum, Editor, Greenkeeper International, BIGGA HOUSE, Aldwark, Alne, York YO61 1UF, or email them to: [scott@bigga.co.uk](mailto:scott@bigga.co.uk)