

Your Letters...

Good Friend Gone

It is with great sadness that Lloyds and Company announce that Ray Potter, our Sales Manager, died suddenly in the early hours of Sunday August 7 2005 while on holiday with his family in the West Country.

Ray has worked in the turfcare industry for many years and had been with Lloyds for the last 10 years; he had a lovely personality and was liked by everybody he came in contact with. Ray will be great loss, not only was he a superb colleague but a wonderful friend to all that worked with him and he will be sadly missed.

Our thoughts are with his family and friends at this sad time.

Previous to Lloyds Ray had enjoyed a distinguished career as a professional footballer. He joined Beckenham Town as a youth player in 1951 and moved to the ground staff of Crystal Palace on leaving school at 15. In 1959 Ray was transferred from Crystal Palace to First Division side West Bromwich Albion where he went on to play over 220 First Division games.

The funeral took place at Portchester Crematorium, Hampshire on Friday August 19 2005 at 1pm.

Clive Nottingham

Lloyds and Company Letchworth Ltd

Look after Number One

I couldn't help but notice that in recent months you have been looking for new ideas to help educate your members in your Tip of the Month Section, I have a suggestion.

For the last ten years people have been regurgitating articles on the maintenance of grass, soil, pipe work and engines. This is all well and good but there has always been a failure to comment on the most important maintenance tool, the greenkeeper.

How many greenkeepers have ended up with injuries such as tendonitis, trapped nerves, dermatitis, bad backs, and stiff joints? Not to mention the psychological effects of dealing with 600 members!

I think it is about time we started to pay more attention to ourselves. Perhaps you could employ a general practitioner to look into the health problems greenkeeping staff can encounter, their treatment and long-term effects. I am sure it would produce some interesting articles of great value, especially to the younger members who are all in one piece!

Mark Aynsley

Still the Sun Shines

Sunday July 10, Belleisle, The Harry Diamond Memorial Quaich. Again the sun splitting the tress, not to mention to few old bald heads suffering for lack of sun tan lotion. Golfers have got to the stage where they expect a good day for Harry's Quaich and we have never had a bad one. We feel that Harry must have some influence up there since for the past five years the weather at Belleisle has been perfect for golf on that Sunday in particular.

At 9.30am 130 golfers, good, bad and indifferent, stood on every tee on the course awaiting the blast from the claxon to engage in the struggle to secure the Harry Diamond Quaich for their foursomes. Stableford is an excellent way to play a sociable game of golf, not for the perfectionist, but it gives the sluggers a chance to do their wee bit even if you can't get out of the odd bunker and you hit the odd ball astray, someone else in the team getting the 1, 2 or 3 points to keep the team's peckers up. The great thing about a Stableford shotgun start is that we all finish at the same time and, believe it or not, everyone, or nearly everyone, waited for the presentation.

This year Harry's brother, Hugh, presented the prizes to the runners up. The Quaich was won by Steven Mason, Darren Dunlop, F. Alexander and J. Wilson and Harry's wife, Jessie, presented them with their prize. Harry had a big family of daughters. They were all at Belleisle to assist in any way, from mixing with golfers to just sitting around and smiling and being pleasant. I asked the girls: "Were there any boys in the family?" I was told by many coy looks: "There are two." Sometimes being a male can be hell.

As I have said in past years, it gives me a lift to know that the Belleisle Club and the Diamond family work for a year brings this very popular golf tournament to the memory of Harry to a successful conclusion which they most certainly have achieved this year.

It would be amiss of me if I did not mention the condition of the course. Billy Fulton and his staff are to be commended for the improvement of Belleisle over the past five years. It is a course well worth a visit to any greenkeeper passing that way, and if courtesy and respect shown to the six greenkeepers who played in the Competition are anything to go by I am sure you will get a homely Ayrshire welcome.

Another year has slipped away and another Harry Diamond Memorial Quaich Tournament has been won by worthy golfers. We look forward to 2006 to again play in this competition to the memory of a great friend and greenkeeper.

Cecil George, BIGGA Life Member

YOUR LETTERS ARE REQUESTED!

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