

Dave and nine Grandchildren at this very sad time,” added Jim.

Peter was made President of the BIGGA Midland Section upon his retirement as Chairman in 2002. Peter was still an active member of the committee attending all committee meetings and golf days. He was a fantastic servant to the Midland Section and will be sorely missed by many greenkeepers around the Midlands.

BIGGA SCOTTISH REGION V SECRETARIES ASSOCIATION

This year’s fixture took place at Glenbervie GC on Monday, April 5 with BIGGA determined to regain the trophy they lost last year after being the holders for several years.

Glenbervie GC was in excellent condition thanks to the efforts of Joe Wallace and his staff, and everyone was looking forward to playing this fine course.

To the match itself, and I can report on a resounding victory for BIGGA. The match was won by seven points to three with the only losses coming from the Chairman, Stuart Greenwood and the Past Chairman, Iain Barr, with the Administrator, Peter Boyd and Donald Gardiner being the other losing pairing.

Wins for Archie Dunn and Steve Sullivan, Neil Cunningham and Kevin Hodges, Stephen Higgins and Marshall Sloss, Kenny Mail and Chris Yeaman, Robert Hardie and Jim McCormack, and finally Derek Scott and Dougie Barr. Two halved matches Colin Black and Gordon Howat, and Andy O’Hara and Hayden Chambers made the victory secure.

The Chairman, Stuart Greenwood, was delighted to receive the Trophy from the Captain of the Secretaries Team and thanked Alan Osborne of the Secretaries Association for organising this year’s match - we look forward to renewing our friendship with the Secretaries next year.

Finally, thanks to the Board of Glenbervie GC for the courtesy and the facilities at the club.



Wilson Morrison, Regional Sales Manager for Fairways (left) and Sam Wade, General Manager at Newmachar GC

DEALER SPONSORS MAJOR PRO-AM EVENT

Fairways (GM) Ltd, Ransomes Jacobsen’s grounds care dealer for Scotland, has signed an agreement with Newmachar Golf Club to sponsor the Club’s Pro-AM tournament, which is one of the largest event of its kind in the north of Scotland.

To be known as The Fairways Pro-Am supported by Golf Finance, the competition will be held on Friday, July 13 with up to 40 teams, consisting of three amateurs and one professional, competing for the trophy and prize fund of £6,000.

BIGGA AND IOG SIGN HEADS OF AGREEMENT TO EXPLORE STRATEGIC MERGER

The Institute of Groundsmanship (IOG) and the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association (BIGGA) have signed a ‘Heads of Agreement’ to investigate the merits of a strategic merger of the two organisations. The key aims of the ongoing discussions include:

- The provision of an improved, more comprehensive, service to members with enhanced benefits of membership;
- Increased membership numbers, which will lead to the development of greater influence commercially and politically;
- An increase in the skills, expertise and professional standards within the turf management sector through a wider ranging and more effective education and training programme;
- Increased professional status for all members;
- The development of strategic partnerships with related organisations and suppliers, for the benefit of members;
- Accessibility to sources of funding previously unavailable and increased opportunities for greater interaction between everyone employed in the turf management sector.

A steering group has been established and sub-groups are in the process of being established to investigate specific topics, such as organisational structure, education and training, membership, finance, marketing, sales and communications, and events and exhibitions.

“The signing of the Heads of Agreement is a major milestone and while there is a great deal of detail yet to be discussed there is a genuine wish by both bodies to reach agreement if at all possible,” said John Pemberton, BIGGA Chief Executive.

Geoff Webb, IOG Chief Executive, commented: “As the steering group moves forward and explores every avenue, it is clear that both the IOG and BIGGA are keen to investigate every opportunity that could benefit the members of both organisations. The fact that we have had two very successfully discussions, and with further talks planned, together with the signing of the Heads of Agreement shows the real potential for progress.”