

Letters

25 YEARS SERVICE

Stewart Fotheringham has entered his 25th year of service at Shiskine Golf Club.

Stewart came to work at the course as a trainee and studied at Elmwood College. He remembers his first tasks on the course as raking the chipping stones outside the clubhouse, hand shearing the burns and collecting the many feathers off the fairways. He has put a lot into greenkeeping on the island, always willing to help other clubs with various maintenance tasks and will give you good advice when you need it. He is still as enthusiastic now as the day he started, with a positive outlook on all tasks he tackles.



This past year has seen him oversee the re-building of three bunkers, levelling of tees, encouraging the rough to add a greater challenge and give better definition to the fairways and receive the regular comments of 'the course is getting better each year' from the annual visiting members.

Stewart says that he has no immediate plans to retire and at only 40 there is plenty of years in him yet!

The special occasion was celebrated with the greenkeepers on the island, 11 present from five clubs, past greenkeepers and staff, gathering for a surprise lunch, that for once, left Stewart speechless.

*Many thanks
Kenny Gilroy*

CARNOUSTIE

I am dropping a line to thank the BIGGA staff for all their hard work at The Open Championship, it is only when you go to these events that you become aware of all the work the staff do for us. I really enjoyed The Open.

Thank you

*John Mitchell, Deputy Course Manager
Perranporth GC*

THE OPEN

Just a quick note to pass on my thanks for all your help at the Open. It was good to catch up with everyone for the few days I was there. Thanks to Rachael and Melissa for all their help, and also to Scott. The organisation was superb and great credit to everyone involved is due.

It's good to know BIGGA is in such good hands with all the dedication by those involved.

*Regards
Stuart Greenwood
Course Superintendent
North Berwick*

OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP

Can I start off by saying what a great experience The Open was. I enjoyed every moment from beginning to end, and with an Irish winner, it just made it better!

I also wanted to say how well run the Support Team was. Even before the event, letters were sent out with really useful advice on what to bring, what to expect and what was expected of us. All of this was really helpful.

As it was my first time meeting BIGGA representatives in person, I must say I found everyone very approachable and down to earth. This really added to my enjoyment of the event.

*David Byrne
Assistant Course Superintendent, St. Helens Bay Golf Resort*

THANK YOU

I would like to extend a big thank you to BIGGA and Ransomes Jacobsen for funding my trip to the United States to take part in the Ohio State international Intern Program. I have been at the Quail Hollow Club in Charlotte North Carolina for a period of four months now and have already had some excellent experiences.

I worked on the preparation during the Wachovia Championship at Quail Hollow in May and have also worked on the preparation for the Memorial tournament at Muirfield Village, Ohio in May. I have already learnt so much from being here for such a short time, that I would like to write a more in depth article about my experiences for your readers before the next Wachovia Championship.

I would like to thank David Withers from Ransomes Jacobsen, and John Pemberton from BIGGA, for their kind support and help in making this experience happen.

*Yours sincerely
Tom Granite, Quail Hollow Club*

BIGGA HQ RETIREMENT



On behalf of the GTC Board and technical committee members I would like to wish our friend and colleague Ken Richardson (BIGGA Education and Training Manager), a healthy and long retirement.

Ken and I have worked very closely for the past 13 years (how time flies – sorry for the RAF pun!)

I can say he has always been very professional and supportive in all our work to promote the education and training of greenkeepers.

Thanks Ken, we will miss you!

*David F Golding
GTC Education Director*