

# Letters

## THE DISTURBANCE THEORY

On February 20, The East Section was host venue for a seminar organised by Rigby Taylor Ltd and The STRI. The venue was Ratho Park Golf Club and the topics covered were: The Thrill of Real Golf, The Disturbance Theory, Use of Growth Regulators and, preparations leading up to the 2007 Open Championship at Carnoustie.

The Guest Speakers were: Richard Windows, Henry Bechelet and Megan Hood, who all did a marvellous job in sharing their views and experience of effective Course Management with all in attendance. There was some cutting edge technical jargon used by the team such as “Chemification” and “Squiffing” so thanks for that I’m sure these terms will eventually become very popular when they reach north of the border.

There were 42 delegates in attendance, inclusive of our own Regional Administrator, and the feedback from most people has been very positive.

So firstly, thank you, most importantly to Rigby Taylor Ltd for sponsoring the event, special thanks to David Carson and his team for organising the event and ensuring its smooth running on the day. And secondly, thank you to everyone involved at Ratho Park Golf Club for agreeing to host this event and making sure we were made to feel welcome. Special thanks to Tom Murray for the time and support given to the event.

And finally thanks to everyone for attending the seminar - It was encouraging to see many East Section members on the day, hopefully we will meet again at the Spring Outing!

*Stuart Ferguson*  
Scottish East Chairman

## THANK YOU

I would like to thank everybody who took the time and effort to complete the questionnaire on Sustainable Golf Course Management. After a first look the results look very interesting. They are currently being analysed and will be disseminated back to the industry as soon as possible. If someone still has a questionnaire they’d like to send back then please do so.

The winner of the £50 M&S vouchers is Mike Garrett from Canterbury Golf Club.

*Katie Walls*  
Lecturer in Sportsturf and NC Course Tutor  
Myerscough College

## HAMISH STEPHEN

It is with a heavy heart I write this letter about the tragic death of our good friend Hamish Stephen. Hamish was at Cruden Bay Golf Club where he worked for 18 years.

He worked his way up from assistant to deputy then to Headgreenkeeper/ Course Manager. Hamish passed away at the tender age of 44 years and he will be sadly missed by all his greenkeeping friends and also all the many friends he had in the trade. Hamish was a very well respected

greenkeeper and this was evident by all the people who attended his funeral at Aberdeen Crematorium.

His death has left all his friends in the North Section devastated by the speed of his illness and our deepest sympathy goes out to his wife Elaine and the family.

Dale Robertson (North Section Secretary)

When I first heard of the death of Hamish Stephen I was stunned. I have known Hamish for almost 20 years during college training and through the green keeping fraternity. When I moved into the area to work at Royal Aberdeen Hamish was one of the first people to phone and welcome me to the north east and so our friendship continued.

I will always remember the football banter with Hamish as he was an ardent Rangers Fan and me being Celtic daft meant there was healthy debate about who was the best in Glasgow. The texts and phone calls from Hamish always came when the gheres were winning and he loved rubbing it in when they beat Celtic.

Hamish will be a sad loss to greenkeeping as he had a vast knowledge of the job and was very enthusiastic about what he was doing at Cruden Bay.

I will certainly miss the big fella as I’m sure will a lot of other people and my sympathy goes out to his wife Elaine and his young family.

*Robert N Patterson*  
Course Manager  
Royal Aberdeen GC

## DEAR FRIENDS AND FELLOW GREENKEEPERS,

You will know by now that the proposal to purchase land to construct a golf course and clubhouse, which will serve as BIGGA Headquarters, was passed by a majority at the Harrogate AGM in January.

I hate begging letters but this is exactly what this is. For the project to materialise cash is required. Any small amount will be more than welcome, although a large donation would bring the purchase of land and our Dream Golf Course within our comprehension.

If the Section Secretaries could see their way to put the hat around at their meetings and golf competitions and send the cash to our HQ the fund will grow from hundreds to thousands “and then the sky is the limit”. I have directed this letter to Greenkeepers and Friends. We know out there in the wider field of our Profession we have many friends who are interlinked with us. In the past you have supported and backed us to the hilt on many occasions. We would again ask for your help that we go forward together to the benefit of all.

*Cecil George*  
Life Member  
Lenzie

**PLEASE EMAIL YOUR LETTERS TO SCOTT MACCALLUM,  
SCOTT@BIGGA.CO.UK OR MELISSA JONES, MELISSA@BIGGA.CO.UK OR  
POST TO: BIGGA HOUSE, ALDWARK MANOR, ALNE, YORK, YO61 1UF**