



## John Taylor MacDiarmid McMillan

*(known as Ian from  
the day he was born)*

**There is a Scottish anomaly whereby if there are too many Johns within the one family, that some are called Ian or Jack. In 1961, Ian was born into such a family, the fourth son of Jack and Rita McMillan.**

The family moved to the lovely village of Cardross where Ian spent his early school years, before moving with his family to the South of England in 1974. He finished his schooling in Enfield, Middlesex.

Having grown up, and after spending a great deal of his young life on the golf course, it just seemed natural that he would join his older brothers, Stewart, Bobby and Billy in greenkeeping - to be followed later by his younger brother, Cameron, into the greenkeeping industry. He worked with his father and brother, Stewart, at Bushill Park Golf Club. At 19 he applied for the position of Head Greenkeeper at the nine hole Datchet GC.

Ian was then to lead a charmed life in the greenkeeping industry as after arriving at Datchet he thereafter was invited to apply for all his later positions in managing golf courses. He spent some years as Head Greenkeeper at Finchley Golf Club before moving to Hankley Common, where he fell in love with heathland, which he sincerely believed was the best possible medium for

a golf course. Ian spent some 15 happy years of his life at Hankley Common Golf Club, where they hosted numerous events including the area qualifying for the Open Championship and The British Armature Seniors Championship and a number of area professional tournaments.

He worked with Surrey Heath in the restoration of the Heather that had been overtaking with woodland and became something of an authority in re-establishing heather to these areas.

When at Hankley Common in 1997, Ian won the Toro Excellence in Greenkeeping Award and in the same year the BIGGA Golf Environmental Award, sponsored by Amazone; the two top awards of their day.

Ian was invited to join David Kidd, who had designed the new prestigious Queenwood Golf Club, in Surrey, during the construction and grow-in of this fine new golf course, where they both gained valuable experience in constructing the course during one of the wettest winters we have experienced.

In addition to which, their work was slowed down establishing grass cover on this very acidic growing medium. I believe the success in achieving a well recognised, fine golf course here was one of the highlights of Ian's career.

On the retirement of this family's good friend, Clive Osgood, at Walton Heath, Ian was again invited to go back to his first love in golf courses, the heathland, where he was to spend some seven very happy years at the very fine old golf club. Walton Heath is the current venue in Europe for the qualifying rounds of the US Open, and will host the British Seniors' Open Championship in the coming year, which he was looking forward to before we so sadly lost him.

He had a wicked sense of humour. We as a family remember when he was 16 years of age and only allowed to ride a 125 Motorbike with limited speed, he polished his helmet to see if he could squeeze a bit more pace; Ian was always looking for more pace whether it was golf greens or motorbikes.

The last time Scotland won rugby's Triple Crown, so long ago I can't remember the date, Ian and Gareth Roberts were shouting their heads off in their local pub, surrounded by Englishmen, who decided they should both be thrown into the duck pond. Gareth was faster than Ian and escaped, Ian was captured by the English. They allowed him to remove his wallet from his pocket and was then thrown into the duck pond. He said it was worth every minute.

He daily attacked the crossword puzzle in his newspaper and there is a photograph of him sitting beside the dog and presenting the dog with the most troublesome questions.

He liked a pint and I am sure all his friends in the pub will miss him; Karen feels his local may now go into liquidation.

He, like most of us in this crazy greenkeeping industry, loved the company of fellow greenkeepers, Harrogate being one of the highlights of his year.

He loved the banter and the bond we share with one and other in this greenkeeping job we all do.

His greatest love was for his immediate family of wife, Karen, sons, Callum, and Daniel and daughter, Hannah, and of course the large family of McMillan's here in the south of England.

May I express our thanks to each and every one of our friends in our golf course industry. The tributes we have all received to Ian have been overwhelming: cards, flowers, e-mails and in Facebook have helped us through this tragic loss, he for us was a joy to share our lives and has left us all with a book of happy memories. He is and will always remain Our Ian.

The McMillan Family



## Life After Redundancy

Tony McLure, familiar to most in the North East, and formerly the Head Greenkeeper at Whickham Golf Club in Newcastle upon Tyne before falling to the axe of redundancy, has taken the positive step in setting up his own business supplying various products to golf clubs.

TM Amenities Ltd was established by Tony in March 2011 selling a varied range of products on an agency basis, these are some of the companies he represents:

Parsaver Golf - All aspects of course furniture, score cards etc; Turf Care Supplies - Equipment contract hire; Air-Seal Products; ASL Agronomic; Northern Lubricants - Waste oil removal.

Tony is working hard to establish his company in the market place and his office is now his car as he trawls around the North East in search of business. He is contacting Club Secretaries and Head Greenkeepers to arrange to meet with them to outline in more detail the cost saving benefits he believes he can bring to your club.

Business is going well in these initial stages, clubs who have sought Tony's input, not only in his professional capacity as a greenkeeper, but also in his capacity as one of the country's leading amateur golfers, have been glowing in their praise of his friendly and knowledgeable approach.

"After six months of being unemployed waiting for the next opportunity to come my way I realised that I had to get out there and do something for myself," said Tony.



## BIG ROLE FOR SMALL FLEET OF JCB MACHINES IN EARTHQUAKE-HIT HAITI

A small fleet of powerful JCB machines is playing a big role in paving the way for rebuilding in part of earthquake-devastated Haiti.

Two JCB excavators and a JCB wheeled loading shovel have been bought by the international charity, Oxfam, and donated to the not-for-profit organisation, Disaster Waste Recovery (DWR), which is clearing damaged houses and recycling the resulting debris in one of the poorest areas of the Caribbean island's capital Port Au Prince.

Oxfam's Logistic Co-ordinator in Haiti, Hubert Ballaman, said: "The location where the JCB machines are working is in the town and often in-between houses and the decision on which houses are demolished is often down to local residents who request their plot to be cleared.

"The team is working in very difficult conditions; it's busy, hot and dusty and controlling lots of curious passers-by can be an issue for the operators and residents."

The demolition and clear-up operation follows the earthquake on January 12, 2010 which measured 7.0 on the Richter scale and killed around 230,000 people. More than a year on, 800,000 people are still living in camps.

Immediately after the earthquake, JCB Chairman, Sir Anthony Bamford, donated two JCB 3CX backhoe loaders worth \$150,000 to help with the relief effort.

They are currently working for not-for-profit organisation Food for the Poor and have so far been deployed to clear rubble, excavate sewage pits, dig out foundations and reconstruct walls and build schools and sanitation facilities.



## Andrew Baker is... Marathon Man

Andrew Baker, Head Greenkeeper of Ely Golf Club, is taking part in a 26 mile walk to raise money for the Help4Heroes charity with his neighbour and some colleagues, some of whom have friends affected by the war. The walk is 26 miles from Avebury to Stonehenge on June 26.

"I am hoping to do it in about seven hours but will take as long as the rest of the group take", explained Andrew.

The link will take you through to a page that explains more about the charity and if you are feeling generous please feel free to sponsor Andrew at:

[www.bmycharity.com/andrewswalk](http://www.bmycharity.com/andrewswalk)



## SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS IN THE NETHERLANDS

More than 20 golf clubs across the Netherlands have demonstrated their commitment to sustainability by achieving the coveted GEO Certified™ award.

The 23 clubs have benefited from the long-term commitment and investment of the Nederlandse Golf Federatie (NGF) enabling the small European country to lead the world in the number of clubs that have achieved the Golf Environment Organization's internationally recognised sustainable assurance.

Jonathan Smith, GEO Chief Executive, hopes the achievements and commitment to environmental sustainability shown by the 23 newly accredited golf clubs will serve as an example to others, both in the Netherlands and across the globe. "Golf needs visible, credible sustainability leadership," he stressed.

"These clubs are models for others, demonstrating that real world corporate responsibility and environmental performance

can be practically and beneficially delivered by all types of golf club. Through their actions these clubs and the NGF are leading sustainability in golf."

Ronald Pfeiffer, NGF President, commented: "We're thrilled that our established and ongoing environmental efforts have been recognised by the GEO. We have been actively promoting environmental sustainability to our members for over a decade, through our Committed to Green campaign and awards scheme, and with the enthusiastic drive of our own environmental volunteers."

For more information:  
[www.golfenvironment.org](http://www.golfenvironment.org).

Photograph shows representatives from the first 16 GEO Certified™ golf clubs in the Netherlands being presented with certificates at a GEO-hosted reception at the PGA European Tour's KLM Open at the Hilversumsche Golf Club last year.

## Montgomerie Elected

The Golf Foundation has elected Colin Montgomerie to be its next president.

Through its Golf Roots programme, the foundation aims to reach one million children a year, through golf, by 2013, in support of the national golf partnerships of England, Scotland and Wales.

Charles Harrison, Chairman of the Golf Foundation, said: "We are absolutely delighted to welcome Colin Montgomerie as our new president. Given his standing in the game and his knowledge and passion for golf, I am quite sure he will be able to contribute hugely as we grow as an organisation.

"After encouraging many young people to take up the game through his exploits in competitive golf, and inspiring the European team so many times in the Ryder Cup, he will now be able to inspire our team to raise the bar further in our efforts to offer many new children the opportunity to play the game, as well as providing help in the development of their life skills."

Colin Montgomerie said: "I have long admired the work of the Golf Foundation and feel very honoured to be taking up this position. Golf has played such an important part in my life and I look forward to working with the Golf Foundation to inspire as many youngsters as possible to take up this great game."

Colin will officially start his new role this month, during the Golf Foundation's AGM, where he takes over the presidency from Ken Schofield, who will be standing down from the post after five highly successful years.

Colin takes on the role at a time when the leading golf charity has changed the perception of golf as a school sport, with government figures showing that the number of schools offering golf had increased from 14% in 2003/4 to 44% in 2009/10. The number of schools with formal links to golf clubs and driving ranges increased from 9% in 2003/4 to 30% in 2009/10.



## A20 a Hit at Goodison

British Seed Houses' A20 Ryesport is keeping Everton's Goodison Park pitch and the Finch Farm training ground green despite a punishing schedule for the Premiership club.

With high profile televised matches nearly every week at the Goodison Park stadium, Head Groundsman, Bob Lennon, was keen to find a mixture to offer superb colour for the cameras throughout the season, and a discussion with British Seed Houses' Paul Moreton identified the perfect solution in A20.

A four-rye blend, A20 is the ideal mixture for sportsgrounds, offering a high tolerance to wear, rapid establishment and great winter colour.

"Paul regularly comes down to look at the pitch and pinpoint the ideal cultivars, and he suggested A20 a few years ago," said Bob.

"It is ideal for the stadium due to its high visual merit, it gives excellent colour throughout the season. I also like its rapid recovery rate after matches."

The stadium completes the 10 week renovation period, and the season begins again in the school holidays with the academy pitches used for training camps before reserve games and friendlies begin.

"These pitches are in use eleven and a half months of the year, virtually every day of the week, so it is very demanding on the turf," said Bob.



## GCSAI Conference

Over 200 greenkeepers from across Ireland and Europe gathered at Knightsbrook Golf Resort, in County Meath, for the GCSAI Conference to hear from, among others, Dr James Beard and Greg Evans MG.

Greg spoke about how he has successfully implemented an aggressive programme on both newly constructed greens and the old, clay based Poa dominated surfaces that the vast majority of greenkeepers manage across Europe.

Dr Beard spoke about the past, present and future of turf maintenance. At the end of their talks, he and Greg took questions from the floor on topics such as the low cutting height, to the roles GPRs play in turfgrass maintenance.

For further information visit: [www.gregevanmsg.com](http://www.gregevanmsg.com)



## SEMINAR SUCCESS

After a very successful Fine Turf Seminar at Uxbridge County Cricket Club last year, Dennis recently returned for a repeat performance.

Hosted once again by Vic Demain, in conjunction with Dennis and Cricketworld.com, the focus this time was to support local cricket groundsmen in the Middlesex and surrounding counties. Vic welcomed over 100 delegates to his facility, including one who'd travelled all the way from the Isle of Man!

The line-up of speakers for the 2011 seminar included many new faces, including Angus Fraser, former England Fast Bowler; Stuart Kerrison, Head Groundsman at Essex County Cricket Club; Paul Taylor, Deputy Head Groundsman at Northamptonshire County Cricket Club; Jim White of Cricket World, Matt Gresty of Limagrain and Rob Kendle of A T Bone.

The programme for the day gave delegates an opportunity to talk to Dennis and SISIS teams, and view the extended product range of the recently announced 'partnership'.

## BIGGA Scottish Conference

The Scottish Region's 13th Conference to be held at the Carnegie Conference Centre, Dunfermline, was a huge success attracting 200 delegates, the highest number ever.

We were indeed fortunate to have such a variety of speakers.

The first was Dr Simon Watson, from Syngenta, who gave a very detailed and interesting talk on the use of Rescue to control grasses on golf courses. Following this Chris Kennedy, Golf Courses & Estate Manager, The Wentworth Club, delivered a fine talk on the many changes that have occurred on the West Course over the past two years. Jonathan Harmer, from Farmura, concluded the morning session by giving enlightening information on organics and water management.

After lunch and before the afternoon session the Chairman, Stuart Taylor had the task of presenting the Harry Diamond Award to the Student of the Year for 2010. The winner was Craig Boath, Carnoustie Golf Links, who was present to accept the award.

The afternoon session was led off by Jim McKenzie, Director of Golf Courses and Estates Management, at Celtic Manor, who presented a first class insight into the organisation and problems that the green staff faced during the Ryder Cup in Wales in 2010.



Following Jim, Clive Nottingham, of Lloyds/Hunters Grinders, explained the benefits of grinding and the good maintenance that leads from it. Finally, from Castle Stuart Golf Links, Chris Haspell, Head Greenkeeper, led us through the trial and tribulations of building this fine links course that culminated in the club being awarded the Scottish Open for the next three years.

Out thanks go to the speakers for taking the time and effort to join us at Dunfermline and to the delegates who helped make the day the success it was.

Next year's conference will be held at the same venue on Tuesday, 6 March 2012 and we look forward to seeing you all there.

*Peter J. Boyd  
Regional Administrator  
BIGGA Scottish Region*

## ANGELA RUNS LONDON MARATHON

BIGGA's Accounts Assistant, Angela Wilson, was rewarded for a gruelling training programme with an excellent time in the London Marathon.

Angela, who is a member of Easingwold Running Club, clocked a time of four hours 31 minutes 17 seconds in her first ever marathon and raised approximately £300 for the St Leonard's Hospice.

"It was a wonderful experience especially with such huge crowds cheering us on. I'm looking forward to my next marathon already," said Angela, who was back at her desk the following Tuesday.

