



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