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BIGGA support in attendance at The Royal St Georges, The Open 2011

Golf's turn in the spotlight

I want to begin this month by congratulating BIGGA's chairman Andrew Mellon on his new position in the Middle East. Having worked closely with him now for more than a year I know he has the business acumen and deep knowledge of the industry that will enable him to succeed in his new challenge. I must also thank him most sincerely both personally and on behalf of all the staff for the enormous commitment to the Association he has given during and before his time as chairman.

The first time I came in to contact with him it was clear that he was passionate about the Association and its members and he has worked tirelessly with his colleagues on the Board of Management to drive BIGGA forward whilst keeping the interests of the membership firmly at the forefront. I am sure you will join with me in wishing Andrew all the very best for the future.

Andrew's successor Tony Smith is a true BIGGA man with huge experience at all levels of the Association and I am very much looking forward to working closely with him to implement the Board's vision.

At the time of writing Spain has just retained the European Championship title and Andrew Murray has made it through to the second week of Wimbledon.

Our thoughts now turn to golf's turn in the British sporting spotlight – The Open Championship. Royal Lytham and St Annes Golf Club's head greenkeeper, Paul Smith provides a fascinating insight in to the preparations for this year's Championship in this magazine, meanwhile the BIGGA Open Support Team are steeled and ready to play their part in the world's greatest golf

tournament. So far this year Mother Nature has proved to be entirely unpredictable and with a grand total of 205 bunkers for the competitors to contend with I'm sure the Team will have a challenging but satisfying week. I'm delighted that Paul and the Championship organisers continue to embrace the experience and skill contained within the Support Team and will utilise it to the full.

Finally it would be remiss of me not to mention three of our most illustrious members who within the last month have begun very well earned retirement.

Congratulations to Iain Carson (Nairn), Chris Kennedy (Wentworth) and John Philp (Carnoustie) who between them boast of over a century of greenkeeping experience. That experience has been hard earned but generously passed on to many, many colleagues and associates over the years. All three leave a legacy far beyond the great courses they have managed.

Enjoy the read.



Jim Croxton
Chief Executive

JULY 2012

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The Open Championship returns to Royal Lytham and St. Annes Golf Club and Head Greenkeeper, Paul Smith, provided GI with an insight into the preparations for the Championship and some fascinating background information on the historic links course

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An Open return



The Open Championship returns to Royal Lytham and St. Annes Golf Club this year and Head Greenkeeper, Paul Smith, provided GI with an insight into the preparations for the Championship and some fascinating background information on the historic links course

A good ten years have passed since my first Open and much has and also has not changed. We are probably all more

scoutily aware and recognise how important our roles are in maintaining golf's green future. The Greenkeeper's role is pivotal, the policies we implement affect the original design characteristics of the course, the playing challenge it presents and the playing strategy adopted by the golfer. Our activities affect the ball and turf interaction, a soft course is a dead course. What

is particularly significant is how our practices enhance and protect the ecology of our green spaces.

The Open Championship is something very special indeed and to be a part of this is a great privilege. It is a challenge that I relish, but one that is not without a headache as two or perhaps the odd badger might sleep along the way. However, our greatest thrill-kick of all still remains keeping the membership happy. These are the challenges and pressures that we all share in working near perfection for that special day on the golfing

calendar, which are not all that different to many other courses you are custodian of. It is not until the final putt is made and the champion golfer is crowned that we can put our feet up momentarily before returning normal business. There we use our quietest reserves and spend some quality time with our family and friends. It is not always easy to maintain a work-life balance being a greenkeeper and custodian of our precious green spaces. I was once given some sound advice by a wise old greenkeeper as he approached retirement after delivering many

26 JULY 2012



years of loyal service. "Make sure you have a life outside work/life". And that is what we must all strive to do. Fewer jobs can be quite as demanding but in the same light as retraining.

The Open Preparation

The preparation and conditioning of the course for an Open Championship is never far from the mind. This work is always ongoing. There is a sustainable ethos to course management and maintenance policies, which are set out with the intent to deliver consistently good standards of play 365 days of the year.

Managing a course in a holistic, sustainable way as close to nature as possible, has always been a challenge for the greenkeeper. Of course it does entail the use of water, fertiliser and chemicals but the art is to utilise these as sparingly as possible to give nature just a little helping hand in presenting a natural course.

Maintaining a consistently good quality course is achievable but delivering perfection is not. With just a little help from Mother Nature and a small amount of man's intervention we can have something worthy.

Royal Lytham and St. Annes presents a management and maintenance challenge. The 205 bunkers that we have on the Championship course provide not only a major challenge to the golfer, but also for our team.

Eighty bunkers have been rebuilt during our last phase of the bunker programme, in tandem with general turf reinstatement work. A great effort was made to ensure that this work was completed by Christmas. However, this winter has been a blessing compared to the winters of 2009 and 2010. The conditions have been conducive to completing our winter programme

schedule, whilst ensuring that we have maintained a good winter playing conditions.

The Build Up

January to February: The course gets a very early and thorough spring clean. Specific activities will include aeration, topdressing and grooming. This is the period where our manpower resources also focus on the careful process of bunker preparation. During a careful bunker-by-bunker review, we will specifically ensure that the depth and angle of sand is appropriate to ensure playability for the

Championship. The angle of the greenside bunkers is set at 65-70°. Fairway bunkers are set at an angle of 55-60°. We aim to maintain the angle of the sand at approximately 15-20°. The sand is sourced locally from the beach at St. Annes and is screened to always be free from shell and pebble content. Sand selection and suitability is always a hot topic and is rarely every club, but in its 126-year history Lytham has kept to using the indigenous fine beach sand.

Our aim is to maintain a relatively firm bunker playing conditions that remain consistent, especially near to the hole to reduce the likelihood of balls resting close to the bunker face.

March to April: Activities will focus on ensuring that all our turfing works establish successfully, eliminating the development of erosion, and planning against drought damage. A dedicated team assigned to hand watering achieves this. This is paramount and ensures that our water usage is specifically directed to those areas of play that need it. Even with modern day automatic irrigation systems, this is not always achievable. We try to keep returning to a minimum during the winter before an Open.

However with 205 bunkers, which require the face to be replaced on a regular basis, naturally an element of turfing work adjacent to the bunker perimeter is required. The playing surfaces are consistently being refilled. In tandem with regular sand topdressing, light fertiliser applications and grooming.

May to June: Early May presents another real challenge in presenting the course for the Lytham and St. Annes tournament. This year, the course proved a formidable challenge even playing from forward tees, with little rough. Royal Lytham's number one last year's winter ranked number seven overall. Dean Harding was the outright winner at seven under par, with his nearest rival seven 11 shots behind.

By the time we eventually reach June and July, most of the specific maintenance schedule will have been implemented and our efforts are then geared towards ensuring our cutting activities, to ensure that the playing surfaces are refilled down to tournament standards. It all sounds a simple and straightforward exercise, but it can be anything but if the weather turns against us. We have to be well versed in strategies in coping

THE OPEN PREVIEW



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Greenkeeper Training

A guide to the range of training provided throughout the UK

BIGGA is actively involved in raising the standard of Greenkeeper Training. The Association is a member of the Greenkeepers' Training Committee and strives to enhance the level of education through various means, including Section, Regional and National workshops, seminars and conferences.

The range and quality of training now available throughout the UK means there is a training course for every greenkeeper. This should improve the quality of greenkeeping and help to produce better quality golf courses to the benefit of all within the industry.

Each Course Manager should recognise that their staff are trained to the highest standards. This begins by selecting a training provider that meets the criteria laid down by the GTC. There is a cost, but benefits education, training and economic success and all clubs should invest in the education of their staff.

There are now a number of GTC Quality Assured Centres and Training Providers across the UK. Quality Assured logo.

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GREENKEEPERS & GROUNDSMEN

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The official monthly magazine of the British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association Limited.



Carnoustie Legend Bows Out in Style

As John Philp retires from Carnoustie he leaves a great legacy, writes Gordon Moir, Director of Greenkeeping at St Andrews Links Trust

John began his career at his home town club of Pitreavie in Dunfermline and after a spell there learning his trade, he moved to Newmarket GC as Head Greenkeeper/Professional, for a number of years before coming back to Scotland as Deputy Links Supervisor at St Andrews in 1979.

Many people perhaps don't realise that John was quite a proficient golfer in his day.

In 1985 he moved to Carnoustie Golf Links, which was in extremely poor condition at the time, as Links Supervisor. It had hosted the Open in 1975 but because of the condition and other factors it had dropped off the rota. John, with the support of Jock Calder,

Chairman of Carnoustie Golf Links Management Committee, turned the Championship course around into the condition it is today, where arguably it is recognised to have set the benchmark for Open Championship venues in 1999 and 2007.

Under his tenure, Carnoustie has also staged the 1991 and 2001 Scottish Ladies' Close Amateur Championships, the 1992 Amateur Championships, the 1995 and 1996 Scottish Opens, the 1997 and 2008 Scottish Amateur, the 2002 British Boys Championship, no less than eleven Dunhill Links tournaments and this year, in his final week, the British Ladies Amateur Championship.

His outstanding work on restoring the Championship course is well documented but what must also be remembered is that he played a similar role in improving both the Burnside and Buddon courses. While not involved in the construction of the Buddon Course, which was built in 1979, he has since rebuilt 16 of the 18 greens.

He has been a regular speaker at various greenkeeper seminars and conferences over the years both in the UK and abroad and has also assisted Elmwood College where he has given presentations and field studies on grass species and identification.

In his time at Carnoustie he has also trained and inspired a number of staff who have gone

onto become Course Managers at some of the most prestigious courses in the UK and Ireland. Alan Strachan at Walton Heath and Gary Johnstone at Portmarnock are two that come to mind.

His training has also been recognised by Carnoustie as they have promoted the Championship Links head greenkeeper Sandy Reid to succeed him and Craig Boath has also ascended to Sandy's previous role.

He has also always been willing to discuss many matters with Course Managers and greenkeepers at all nearby clubs. Many a time I have turned up at Carnoustie on a Sunday morning in winter to drop my sons off at their football and wandered down to the course where I would find John busy on the course. I would always end up missing the first goal after getting into some technical discussion or other!

In 2000, his services to greenkeeping were recognised when he was awarded the MBE, an honour he received from the Queen.

Hole in honour

Earlier this year when it was announced John Philp was retiring, Carnoustie Golf Links Management Committee agreed to name the 11th hole on the Championship course after him, this is an extraordinary honour to bestow on an extraordinary greenkeeper and will be the subject of a full report in the next issue.

PLAYER SALUTES LA MANGA ON 40TH ANNIVERSARY



South African legend Gary Player has delivered his own personal message of congratulations to La Manga Club as part of the Spanish resort's 40th anniversary celebrations.

The 76-year-old was La Manga Club's first director of golf when it opened in 1972 and played a key role in helping the resort establish itself during its early years.

La Manga Club hosted the Spanish Open five years in a row from 1973-77 and has gone on to become one of Europe's leading sports and leisure destinations.

Player said: "This is a very happy moment for me having been the director of golf at La Manga Club, a very beautiful place, a great resort with some wonderful courses and people.



Fond Farewell to BIGGA Chairman 2012



BIGGA's chairman, Andrew Mellon is leaving his position as Golf Operations Manager at Elmwood College having been appointed as General Manager for Hydroturf International in Qatar. Hydroturf are the Middle East's leading golf course and landscaping supply company.

Andrew who will take up his new post on September 1st has been with Elmwood for nearly 12 years, having been a student greenkeeper initially and then working through from Greenkeeper Instructor to his present position.

At the latest BIGGA Board of Management meeting Andrew informed the Board of his circumstances and it was agreed that he will step down from his role of BIGGA chairman during the Open

Championship at which time Tony Smith of Teesside Golf Club, the current vice chairman, will take over for the remainder of the year before beginning his intended full year of office at the AGM in January.

In the two and a half years Andrew has been involved on the Board of Management he has served the membership with great drive, passion and commitment. The entire board and staff of the association wish to recognise his huge contribution to BIGGA and wish him all the very best with his new challenge.

Andrew said, "BIGGA has always been a great support to me, from the very first day I became a Greenkeeper, and still is in my current role. It has been an honour and a privilege

to serve on the Board. I wish Tony Smith all the best during his term as Chairman.

The professionalism, the passion, and the friendship I've witnessed during my time at BIGGA from the members, the staff, and the Board has helped me understand why BIGGA is so important within this industry. I'm confident it will go from strength to strength under the current leadership and continue to further develop its support to the membership.

I've made many good friends, and I hope to keep in contact. I am sad to be leaving, but excited at the new opportunity I have. I'd like to thank everyone for their support to me, and wish everyone the very best going forward."



Derek Gould & Duncan Herd

BIGGA is sorry to have recently learnt of the sad news of the passing of two Life Members Mr Derek Gould and Mr Duncan Herd.

Derek, who lived in Sheringham, Norfolk was a long standing member of BGGGA and BIGGA. Duncan who resided in Longniddry, East Lothian, was a long standing member of the SIGGA and BIGGA.

BIGGA would like to express their sincere condolences to the family and friends of Derek and Duncan.



LEFT TO RIGHT: Ian Morrison Captain Bruntsfield Links Golfing Society, Lesley Lowrie GOSTA Training, Markus Klausmann, Steve Miller GOSTA Training, Andrew Connor Head Greenkeeper Bruntsfield Links Golfing Society

Markus Klausmann: Student of the Year for GOSTA

GOSTA has been training golf course greenkeepers and landscape employees in the West of Scotland since 1982. Managing Director, Lesley Lowrie took the decision to commence delivery of greenkeeper qualifications in Edinburgh and Lothian in the summer of 2011.

Bruntsfield Links Golfing Society were one of the first golf clubs to send one of their employees for training. The employee was Markus Klausmann who originally came from Wildtal, a small village right at the edge of the Black Forest, an area of Southern Germany.

As a trained chef Markus relocated to Scotland to change

both his life and career. He worked as a car cleaner and hospital porter for nearly three years in order to finance his flight to Edinburgh until he was successful in finding employment on a golf course. During that time he also attended English Language School in Edinburgh. Markus commented "to say my English was bad would be an understatement."

He went on "by sticking to my plan to only befriend Scotsmen and not mix with other German students at the language school I quickly began to grasp English!"

Markus started work at Bruntsfield Links Golfing Society in 2008 and attended Oatridge

College prior to moving over to GOSTA to do his SVQ Level 3 Modern Apprenticeship in Sports Turf.

"Markus was an outstanding student who strives to achieve the highest possible standards at all times and is a worthy candidate to achieve this award" said his lecturer Steve Miller.

Lesley presented Markus with the GOSTA Training Student of the Year Award which was an inscribed Quaich.

If you are interested in SVQ's, Modern Apprenticeships or short courses (Certificates of Competence) in your area please contact GOSTA Training on 0141-556-3999.

SCOTLAND NATIONAL TOURNAMENT

CHAIRMAN TRIUMPHS AT RATHO PARK GC

John Young, BIGGA's recently appointed RA for Scotland, reports from the Scottish National Tournament 2012



The 2012 Scottish National Tournament took place at Ratho Park Golf Club on Wednesday, 20th June.

Ratho Park, situated 30 minutes from Edinburgh city centre, provided an excellent setting for the competition. The parkland golf course, designed by James Braid was first established in 1928, although the history of the club can be traced back to the turn of the 19th Century through a merger with Corstorphine Golf Club on land that is now part of Edinburgh Zoo.

In 1955, the club purchased the estate of Ratho Park with the mansion house transformed into a magnificent clubhouse.

Playing conditions were excellent for competitors considering June's inclement weather.

The course was actually unplayable over the previous weekend, and Billy Hudson and his team are to be congratulated for producing a course in superb condition for the tournament.

As with all golf tournaments, the weather plays a significant role in competition scoring and the enjoyment for players. With the exception of a couple of light showers in the afternoon, the weather was excellent and very much welcomed by all.

Although playing numbers were down on the previous year, a very competitive field assembled for the tournament. This was highlighted by an extremely close and hard-fought duel between 3 times winner David Simpson of Crieff Golf Club and Scottish Regional Chairman, Stuart Taylor of Glasgow Golf Club for the Scottish Championship. Both returned an excellent one under par score of 68 with the Chairman prevailing on count back over the last nine holes. Kenneth Mitchell from St Andrews Links Trust won the Friendship Trophy for the best nett score of 67 using his handicap of 5 to good effect.

After receiving the Scottish Challenge Cup, Stuart Taylor thanked Vice Captain John Dea, the committee and members of Ratho Park for their hospitality and for the courtesy offered to players.

A Quaich was presented to the Vice Captain, who then paid tribute to the hard work of all greenkeeping staff and remarked that the club was delighted to host the tournament.

Congratulations to all who took part and we hope to see everyone next year at Largs Golf Course for the 2013 tournament.

THE 2012 SCOTTISH NATIONAL TOURNAMENT PRIZE LIST

SGGA CHALLENGE CUP (SCRATCH CHAMPION)
Stuart Taylor, Glasgow GC 68

FRIENDSHIP TROPHY (NET CHAMPION)
Kenneth Mitchell, St Andrews Links Trust 72 5 67

RANSOMES TROPHY - 1st CLASS
1. David Simpson, Crieff GC 68 +1 69
2. Paul Murphy, Fife Golf Trust 78 5 73
3. Gavin Neill, St Andrews Links Trust 81 6 75

PATTISON TROPHY - 2nd CLASS
1. Graeme Bolton, G West 78 9 69
2. Ian MacLeod, Tain 78 7 71
3. Thomas Adams, Crieff GC 83 12 71

STRI TROPHY (St. IVES JUBILEE) - 3rd CLASS
1. Dale Robertson, Newmacher GC 83 15 68
2. Gerard Broadley, Glasgow GC 94 17 77
3. Bryan Ramsey, Glasgow GC 94 16 78

DICK AITKEN TROPHY - BEST HEAD GREENKEEPER
Euan Grant, Turnberry Golf Courses 83 14 69

M & M TROPHY - BEST ASSISTANT
Craig Berry, Leven 77 7 70

SIGGA TROPHY - BEST VETERAN
Charles MacDonald, Crieff GC 73 3 70

ST MUNGO TROPHY - SECTION TEAM WINNERS - Central Section
Kenneth Mitchell, St Andrews 67
David Simpson, Crieff 69
Graeme Bolton, G-West 69
Charles MacDonald, Crieff 70
TOTAL 275

QUAICH - TRADE PRIZE
Kevin Brunton, Greentech 74 0 74

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFIERS
Scratch, Stuart Taylor, Glasgow GC
Nett, Kenneth Mitchell, St Andrews Links Trust

SOUTH WEST AND SOUTH WALES

Southwood and Brockenhurst Taste Victory

The first of the South West and South Wales Region's Golf Management Competitions, sponsored by Tacit, have taken place and two clubs have secured their places in the finals of the event.

The South Coast Section event was recently held at Liphook GC where the winning team from Southwood GC came in with 82 points. In second place was the team from Brockenhurst GC with 81 points. Both teams have won a place through to the final which is taking place later in the year at Frilford Heath GC. Just missing out on a place in the finals were Wareham GC in third place on 80 points and Test Valley GC in fourth place on 79 points. The nearest the pin competition was won by Paul Cooper from Wareham GC and the longest drive competition was won by Chris Hudson from Southwood GC.

BIGGA South West and South Wales Region would like to thank Tim Webb and Tacit for their support of the region in sponsoring these events.

A First for Two Clubs with Green Credentials

Forsgårdens Golf Club, Sweden

Widespread recognition of golf's positive social and environmental impacts is gathering pace – and is being led by a group of clubs who have shown the way toward ever-stronger achievements and credible communications through the GEO Certified™ ecolabel.

Sweden's Forsgårdens Golf Club is a leader among leaders, stepping up in 2009 as one of the very first golf clubs to become GEO Certified™. Three years later, they are the first club in the world to be re-certified by the Golf Environment Organization.

Re-certification is a vital point of credibility for all ecolabelling, demonstrating how sustainability can extend deeper into decision-making and communications over time, and affirming the important 'continual improvement' principle that makes sustainability a mindset and a journey rather than a static destination.

The announcement represents a milestone in golf's sustainability movement; the first time that any golf club, anywhere in the world, has been re-certified via a dedicated, third-party verified and transparently reported programme for golf.

Gordon Shepherd, GEO Board Member and former Head of Global Policy for WWF

International recognized the significance:

"Having worked on the development of many industry certification programmes and ecolabels, from forestry to fisheries, I have seen landmark points in time, when something significant demonstrates a clear path to a more sustainable future. This is one of those moments.

"GEO was founded to support clubs in their sustainability actions and bring forward real, transparently reported results; steering away from one-time awards that

risk bringing complacency, in favour of driving continual improvement."

It is to Forsgårdens' considerable credit that through this re-certification, they demonstrate clear and quantifiable improvements across a comprehensive range of issues. Amongst all the processes and protocols, we are reminded that it's positive individual, personal engagement and action that environment and society needs."

Ole Riger-Kusk, an independent verifier accredited

by GEO, conducted the initial certification and the recertification and found that Forsgårdens upheld and strengthened a solid environmental performance.

Making more improvements in the three years since becoming GEO Certified™, especially around landscape and ecosystems, energy and resource conservation, waste management, and also more communications with authorities and the surrounding community.

Coventry GC First in England to be GEO Certified™

Coventry Golf Club is the first golf club in England to be awarded the international ecolabel GEO Certified™ in recognition of outstanding sustainability efforts.

Established in 1887, the club celebrated its 125th anniversary this year and also the centenary of the re-location of the course to Finham.

Many of England's nearly 2000 golf courses are community based clubs like Coventry, making this an important example of how sustainability can be embraced with positive results for the environment and the economic performance of the golf business.

Phil Weaver, Coventry's Head PGA Professional & Course Manager and Chairman of the PGA of Great Britain and Ireland, was part of the driving force behind the journey through the programme that led to the GEO Certified™ ecolabel, and remarks:

"We recognise the pressures on the

environment at large and understand that golf clubs have an important responsibility to take their stewardship of the land seriously. In the last few years we have become much more aware and active, making sustainability a consideration in every decision we make."

"The GEO OnCourse™ programme was easy to follow and made sure we thought about a wide range of practical areas and there were suggestions for improvements as we went along. The on-site verification with Matt Johns was extremely constructive and left us with new ideas and motivation for the future. We will fly the GEO Certified™ flag with a great deal of pride."

Weaver worked in close conjunction with colleagues Club Captain Keith Lindsay, Club member Professor Ian Foster, and past Captain and President Robin Bussell to drive the project forward and become the first Golf Club in England to achieve this prestigious award.



Changing of The Guard

Following a dramatic conclusion to the 37th Curtis Cup, a ceremonial changing of the guard has taken place at The Nairn Golf Club. The handover, which marked the conclusion of an exceptional 31-year tenure, saw golf course manager Iain Carson pass on the reigns of the club's proud greenkeeping tradition to Ritchie Ewan, his deputy of 25 years.

In a career spanning more than three decades at the Highland course, Iain Carson masterminded a Walker Cup, Scottish Amateur Championship, a Seniors Amateur Open and one of the most keenly contested Curtis Cups in recent times.

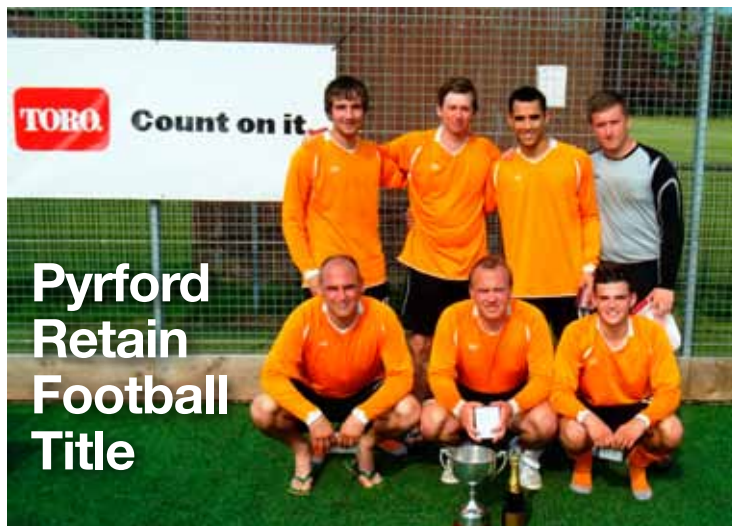
"One of the biggest changes has been the development of Nairn from a relatively small club in the north of Scotland to one that is recognised throughout the world," he said. "We are all part of a team here, committee and management, and we have all been involved in bringing the club forward."

The staging of the Curtis Cup coupled with the club's highest entry (23) in Golf World's recently published Top 100 Golf Courses in Britain & Ireland has ensured Mr Carson leaves on a high. "For me, having the Walker Cup here in 1999 and getting the Curtis Cup in 2012 has been a great honour. No other club in the north of Scotland has had both of these events and it means Nairn is one of only ten clubs to host both," he said. "It has been a fantastic adventure which I have enjoyed from the start."

In what many see as a continuation of what came before, the new keeper of the green will be tasked with ensuring the famed Highland links preserves its reputation for its exceptional greens. Discussing his new position, Ritchie praised his former boss and looked forward to the future.

"It has been a privilege to work alongside Iain for the last 25 years," said the club's new golf course manager. "He has worked hard to achieve the playing surfaces that we have at Nairn which are admired by so many. This shows through in how the course is presented and the feedback we get from the members. My job will be to continue this tradition so that Nairn can be enjoyed long into the future."

It's not just the members who enjoy the club's smooth-running greens. Former Ryder Cup captain Colin Montgomerie is also a fan, describing Nairn as "one of the best links courses in our great country", while World Number One Luke Donald said he "considered it a great test of links golf and one of Scotland's best courses".



Pyrford Retain Football Title

With the only goal of a cagey final which looked destined for penalties, Pyrford Golf Club saw off the challenge of West Hill Golf Club to retain the JSM Cup.

The preceding rounds of very competitive 5-a-side football were played out during one of the warmest days of the year. The commitment of all the teams led to penalties having to decide 2 of the quarter final matches as well as the semi-final in which Pyrford sneaked past Cuddington Golf Club. West Hill defeated Queenwood 2-0 in the other semi-final.

Before the presentations could take place a penalty shoot-out also had to decide the winner of the 'golden boot' for tournament top scorer. Zane Percival (Pyrford) narrowly defeated Ben Edwards (West Hill) during sudden-death penalties, both having finished level on 6 goals at the end of the final.

JSM's Managing Director David Cole remarked, 'The commitment and standard of play has been great to see, particularly on such a warm day. Our football tournament is turning into a great social event and we must thank Toro/ Lely UK for their support in making it such an enjoyable success'.

Entry to the JSM Cup was open to teams of greenkeeper's, groundsman and other turf and landscape professionals from around the south-east. First played for in 2008, the competition is held biannually.

GTC ANNOUNCE NEW DATES FOR CHAIRMAN OF GREEN WORKSHOPS

The Greenkeepers Training Committee has announced three new dates and venues for their very popular Chairman of Green Workshops. Presented by Laurence Pithie MG the Workshops provide a first class introduction to the role and responsibilities of the Chairman of Green and are a must attend for all golf club officials who have responsibility for liaising with the course management team.

Events will take place as follows:

Thursday 13th September 2012

at Priory Barn, Bridgwater College, Cannington Centre, Rodway Hill, Cannington, Bridgwater TA5 2LS.

Thursday 20th September 2012

at Conwy (Caernarvonshire) Golf Club, Morfa, Conwy LL32 8ER

Tuesday 25th September 2012

at Llanishen Golf Club, Heol Hir, Cardiff CF14 9UD.