



John Duncan – standing down after almost 16 years

Golf club secretary retires after 16 years

Approaching his 63rd birthday, John Duncan, secretary/manager to Royal Dornoch Golf Club for almost 16 years, is taking early retirement from his post at the end of this month, but lays his pen to rest next Wednesday due to holiday leave accrued.

The ex Army Pay Corps Lieutenant-Colonel was appointed in charge of Royal Dornoch in July of 1994, five months after the sudden death of the previous incumbent, Ian Walker, who took ill in his car when travelling home after attending a Scotland v France rugby international.

John had the administrative responsibility of running one of the world's most famous golf courses. The links are

rated 15th best in the world and third in Scotland and with a membership base of 1700, which includes approx 500 overseas members, he also found time to show a welcoming hand to close on 9000 visiting golfers per year.

During his time at Dornoch, he also contributed his administrative skills to the Golf Club Managers Association, a body that

succeeded the Association of Golf Club Secretaries, and was instrumental with colleagues of setting up the Club Managers Association of Europe, a body having strong links with their American counterparts who promote education and training of Club Managers in Europe to certificate level in the 21st century.

John has recently returned

from the Club Managers Association of America world conference in San Diego where he discussed common problems in club management with counterparts from as far apart as Russia and China to Columbia.

Jim Campbell, Captain of Royal Dornoch, speaking on behalf of his Council of Management and members, expressed their appreciation

of all the work undertaken by John since his arrival in Dornoch and wished him a long and happy retirement away from the daily rigours of office work. The Royal Dornoch Council hope to have a replacement person in post by mid Season.

● John will remain a resident of Dornoch and will be happy not to have the golf fixture problems currently befalling the North Alliance Secretary, Tony Gill. With a further North Alliance fixture cancelled at Golspie last weekend, Gill keeps his fingers crossed that Tarbat goes ahead this weekend, for now he is contemplating a first ever Saturday fixture to clear some of the back log.