

# GREEN LIGHT

## Simpson picks up national trophy for the third time

**Matthew Gallagher**

**Perthshire golfer David Simpson has been crowned British and International Golf Greenkeepers' Association national champion for the third time.**

The Crieff Golf Club greenkeeper becomes the first player to net a trio of wins following an impressive performance at Gullane's Number 2 course.

Plus-one handicapper David (40) held the overnight lead after carding a round of 69 before returning to shoot a 77 the next day in challenging conditions.

His overall score of 146 tied with Belton Woods' Matthew Haynes but a birdie on the second play-off hole secured the record-breaking third win.



**Cup for it** David Simpson

Having won the 2007, 2008 and now 2018 title, David said: "I had a wee smile to myself when my putt went in for a birdie on the 18th because I knew nobody had won three times.

"On Sunday a group of us went out for a practice round and I came in after six holes because it was too windy.

"I was getting called a wimp by the guys I was playing with because I couldn't handle the wind.

"But after I won I had a wee smile to myself, thinking who is the wimp now!

"You meet the same guys most years, there are one or two new faces. 2007 was the first time I played in the event and I've only missed one out.

"Most take it seriously and the lowest handicap was plus three."

David, who got involved with golf at the age of 12 at Comrie Golf Club, thought his chances of silverware were over in the second round.

He explained: "I took a seven at the 10th, a short par four, after losing a ball. I thought I had blown my chances at that point. There wasn't a scoreboard on the course so it wasn't until I got in.

"There's been lots of wee well done messages.

"The members at Crieff are really good with me and are always looking out to see if your scores are going well.

"There's always a bit of banter, too,

if you're not playing well."

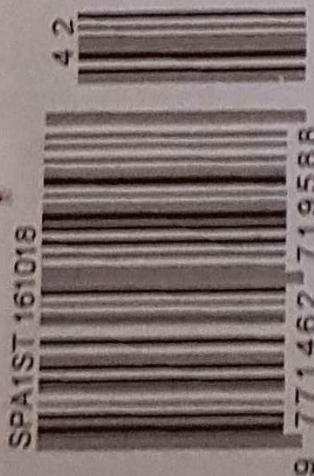
Chief executive officer of the British and International Golf Greenkeepers' Association, Jim Croxton, congratulated David.

He added: "After the spectacular year they have enjoyed at Gullane, Stewart Duff and his team could be forgiven for being fatigued by the time BIGGA National came around in mid-October.

"But that couldn't be further from the truth and Gullane's Number 2 was truly in championship condition.

"Congratulations to Stewart and the rest of the team on a stellar 2018 and congratulations also to David for his brilliant performance in very challenging conditions. He's a very worthy BIGGA National Champion 2018."

The 2019 BIGGA National Championship will be held at Formby and Formby Ladies in Lancashire.



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