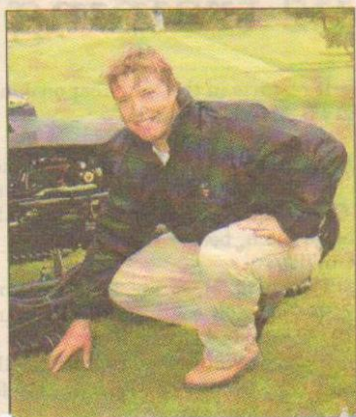


GOLF



Dougie heads home for course work

Andrew Welsh

A PERTSHIRE golf centre has returned to its 'grass roots' with their latest appointment.

Kenmore native Dougie MacGregor has been appointed as the new manager at his home village course after spending the last 13 years working in England.

The Highland set-up is part of the tourism-based Mains of Taymouth country estate, which is owned by Dougie's childhood friend Robin Menzies and his wife Irena.

Plans to upgrade the course and build a new clubhouse are part of major investment in the venture, also including a new leisure centre and expanded stables.

After starting his career as an apprentice greenkeeper at Taymouth Castle, Dougie studied at Elmwood College in Cupar before heading south to Stratford-upon-Avon to work at the Welcombe Hotel, which hosted a European Seniors tournament.

From there, he moved to the prestigious Oxfordshire Golf Course - host to the European Tour Benson & Hedges Open - and then the adjacent Southfield Golf Club, as deputy manager.

Dougie told PA Sport yesterday he was delighted to be returning to his old stamping ground.

"It's great to be back in Kenmore," he said yesterday.

"I know I am biased, but this part of the world simply cannot be beaten for its scenery and, of course, its golf.

"It's a real challenge here at Mains of Taymouth as we will be re-developing the course, but it's a challenge I am relishing.

"Back on my home turf, I want to make a real difference and put all my knowledge and experience to good use."

Dougie said Kenmore was broadening its appeal thanks to the commitment shown by its owners.

"The course is currently known as Perthshire's finest nine holes," he said.

"I want to ensure that the new course maintains this excellent reputation and offers even more pleasure and challenge to the golfer, whether local or from further afield."