

Top Secret stuff!

The Berkshire has taken £16 million ex VAT of visitors' fees – temporary members – since 1990 and never paid a penny in tax. Now they want over £1 million of VAT back on those green fees, on which they have evaded the tax. The club starts the fraud by suggesting that the fees paid by non-members are in some way guests of the club, paid for by members, and presumably disguising them as being non-taxable for a start. Let's highlight the comments made by the Club Captain, I.A.G. Mathewson, in the accounts from 2009 which are shown at Company's House:

'In 2009 a total of 5,963 visitors played the courses as guests of members of the club. This means we last year led round this record number of our friends and colleagues, a testimony I believe to the quality of the courses and their high standard of presentation throughout the year.'

The Berkshire Club Captain, Iain Arthur Gray Mathewson, who wrote this, received the CMG for work with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. In fact he was an officer with MI6, with their motto "Always secret". Who better to hide the Berkshire's green fees from HMRC? This is what the Guardian wrote about him in their article, "**The modern-day Spy**"

"The Oxbridge elite which still dominates the higher reaches of MI6 may make good intelligence officers, but they have made a hash of management. Adept at working the corridors of Whitehall, directors of public affairs, such as John Gerson, and his assistant, Iain Mathewson, have devoted considerable time and resources to nurturing the carefully cultivated air of mystique that surrounds MI6."

You see, these 5,963 weren't guests paid for by members. They were visitors. The total income derived from those 5,963 punters was £851,183 plus VAT, then 15%, giving a total of £978,860, i.e. an average green fee per player of £164. Members pay £30 for guests. And that is where the fraud starts! "Our friends, our colleagues" – Oh, please! Not your personal guests, but your customers. And there are 2000 other members' clubs operating the same fiddle on a larger or small scale – all fiddling their corporation tax and all wanting their VAT back on the fiddled funds! And in all, they want the UK taxpayer to cough up £500 million! And the clubs are so adept at working the corridor of Whitehall that it is being well and truly swept under the carpet lest the great British public finds out! But seemingly the worm is turning and HMRC is standing their ground at the other end of the Whitehall corridors!