

FACT OF THE DAY GBP 37,980

THE amount the average Scot spends on gifts throughout their lifetime, according to research from online dating and relationship specialist Parship.co.uk. Across the UK, GBP 22.9 billion is spent on gifts each year, with GBP 7bn of that being spent at Christmas. However, more than half of all gifts will turn out to be unwanted, the report added.

GOOD DAY

David Pretty

THE chief executive of housebuilder Barratt has collected a top industry gong as he prepares to retire after 27 years with the firm. Pretty was voted Regeneration Champion of the Year in the Regeneration Awards. The special award is made to an "unsung hero".

BAD DAY

Dresdner Kleinwort staff

THE corporate and investment banking arm of Germany's Dresdner Bank is cutting staff at its London operation. Reports have suggested about 100 may go. A spokeswoman confirmed there were cuts, but declined to give details.

CUTTING U P ROUGH

A new angle on pay-and-play golf IT'S the place to be invited to - getting a round on Archerfield Links on the East Lothian coast is becoming about as rare as a Muirfield member without a Labrador.

Such is the quality and demand for the course, 500 people have so far been willing to pay GBP 20,000 to join, including Alan Shearer, Ryan Giggs and Ian Botham, right, and then a GBP 1,300 annual sub.

However, there is a fair bit of unrest among the well-heeled members after a letter received recently suggested each now cough up an extra GBP 100 a year, as a "tip" for the backroom staff.

The club suggested that if everyone agrees to the charge, GBP 50,000 would become available to split among the staff. If members fail to reply and agree, then the cash will be automatically taken from their bank accounts.

The People

Dear Rachael: 8m

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THAT'S the number of working days lost every year because of men suffering from LOVESICKNESS. Online dating agency Parship claim one in three men fall head over heels in love on their first date and half by the third date. But 12 per cent suffer dizziness, stomach pains and insomnia when they are in love and have to go sick. How macho!

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