Scottish Golf Course Wildlife Initiative

The Scottish Golf Course Wildlife Initiative used The Open Championship at St Andrews as the ideal opportunity to spread the word about some of its recently launched projects.

"The reason we are distributing this information to a range of golfing, environmental and general media is in response to recent misinformed criticism of golf courses and their environmental impact," explained Senior Golf Course Advisor, Jonathan Smith.

"Particularly in Scotland, there has been much press and radio coverage recently, which has portrayed golf course management and development in a negative light. A great deal of this has been based on assumption and misunderstanding of how golf courses are managed, and the potential golf courses provide to protect and enhance the environment."

The pack which was distributed is designed to raise awareness among the media, and resultant interest in the wider public of the positive role golf courses can play in the environment, and the efforts currently being made by both the golfing and environmental sectors to make this positive situation continue.

Scottish Golf Course Wildlife Initiative, a partnership of golfing and environmental organisations, is funded by the Scottish Golf Union, the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews, Scottish Natural Heritage and the Scottish Greenbelt Foundation.

Further information can be obtained from Jonathan at The Scottish Golf Course Wildlife Group, The Stables, Dalkeith Country Park, Midlothian, EH22 2NA Tel: 0131 660 9480 Email: scotgolf.wildlife@virgin.net

Support for Support Team

BIGGA's Open Championship Greenkeeping Support Team at St. Andrews this year were smartly turned out in polo shirts, caps and fleeces from BIGGA's logoed Slazenger range. The fleeces were sponsored by Rigby Taylor which are now available to all BIGGA greenkeepers through a product purchase incentive scheme which the company is running until October. The fleece makes a practical work wear garment for use around the golf course. Alan Halfyear, of Rother Valley Golf Centre and a member of the 2000 Support Team, is seen modelling the fleece in one of the Old Course's notorious bunkers.

Redesign provides greater access for disabled

The third course at Moor Park, operated by Three Rivers District Council as a public course now has its revised and renovated facilities - 18-holes course, 9-holes par 3 course and academy, recently opened by Trevor Brooking, Chairman of the Sports Council.

The golf centre has been re-designed by Swan Golf Designs, golf course architects, to add to The Old Harry Colt designed course with a refurbished short course and a custom designed area with chipping and bunker practice complexes and a three tier putting green set to test all kinds of player with greatly varying abilities.

The project has been a partnership between The Local Authority and The Sports Lottery Fund who contributed nearly £400,000 towards the cost of the works, undertaken by John Greasley. Tees and bunkers throughout have been re-designed to allow access for disabled players and wheelchairs.