**A very fishy tale indeed!**

Carl Horrax, Course Manager at Salisbury and South Wilts GC found himself in the news in a most unexpected way last month when he was called upon to comment on the downpour of goldfish and koi carp which landed on the golf course.

Golfers took over when it started raining and when the returned to their game the fairway was covered in the fish.

"It's not a particularly believable story but I drove over the area about ten minutes before I got the call and everything was fine then, so if it had been a prank I would have seen them," said Carl, who appeared in the local and national papers as well as on television and radio.

It is thought that a mini whirlwind may have sucked up the fish from a garden pond and dumped them on the course.

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**Golf Course Solutions**

Two well known faces in the industry have formed a new company covering course surveying, agronomy and golf course design.

Steve Jones MG, formerly the Superintendent at The London Club and Bill Farnham, who has been involved in golf course design for over 25 years and had an article on Global Positioning System survey work published in the May 2000 edition of Greenkeeper International have formed Golf Course Solutions.

"We are proud of the client base we have built up in such a short period, providing our services to such clubs as, Sunningdale, Loch Lomond, The Oxfordshire, Chart Hills. GCS also offer a worldwide service, and we already have clients in Poland, Spain, France and the USA," said Bill.

Based in Kent, the nucleus of the business is the survey work, using GPS at sub-centimetre accuracy, usually to within +/- 10mm.

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**Remodelling work for Midland courses**

Golf course architects, Gaunt & Marnoch, have recently started significant new remodelling work on existing golf courses in the Midlands.

From their Head Office base in Bakewell, Derbyshire, proposals for work on eight courses in the west Midlands and Cheshire are now underway. The courses vary considerably from vintage courses, such as Atherstone in Warwickshire, Trentham Park and Newcastle in Staffs, through to youngster courses such as Brandon Wood, Coventry.

"Four of the courses in this hatch are at least sixty-five years old and the oldest is well past its' first century. You can see some common problems, particularly with bunkers and drainage but, invariably there are specific issues like internal and external safety and the impact of new highways which affect an individual hole or part of the course," said Jonathan Gaunt.

According to co-director, Steve Marnoch, the expansion in remodelling work is not simply a response to the ageing process.

"Many of the new courses built in the 1960's, 1970's and 1980's have raised the awareness of the golfing public to the high standard of facilities that can be offered at a reasonable cost. Today's British golfer is discerning, demanding and prepared to travel for good quality golf facilities.

"Course remodelling can be crucial to the delivery of quality service and customer satisfaction. Linked to our skills as landscape architects, we are also improving golf courses by adding aesthetic interest and artistic flair, particularly in our planting proposals."