Another Open Championship this month.

Scott MacCallum, Editor

Let’s hope so, just as we hope John Philp and his team have a

condition.

that between then and our return to the Angus town there

experience of cheering home a home grown winner in Paul Lawrie

– finding the short grass from the tee then the green – every chance

are a little wider so hopefully more players will appreciate the work

from the side of the 18th green, would have been staggered to

are supposed to be playing from”.

had done on the areas he describes “as the areas the players were

a renaming of the course in some newspapers to “Carnasty” last

time around took away from the great work John and his team

had done on the areas he describes “as the areas the players were

The narrow fairways, severe rough and high scores brought about

a renaming of the course in some newspapers to “Carnasty” last

that there while the fairways are a little wider so hopefully more players will appreciate the work

has gone into giving those who play golf as it should be played –

Finding the short grass from the tee then the green – every chance
to control their golf ball.

Those of us who wore at Carnoustie in 90, and had the unforgettable

experience of cheering home a home grown winner in Paul Lawrie

from the side of the 18th green, would have been staggered to

see that between then and our return to the Angus town there

would have been no British winner, to not mention European winner

of a Major Championship. While the Ryder C u b e has proved easy

most over the last five years, 31 Majors have passed with a series

of American, South African, Australian, New Zealand, even Fijian

winners.

That run will come to an end sometime but, if truth be told, there

is no-one exactly holding up their hand and declaring themselves a

tender. But the beauty of golf is that you never know and there is

a new hero is likely to burst from the dark shadows at any time.

Let’s hope so, just as we hope John Philp and his team have a

wonderful week full of praise for a magnificent links in magnificent

condition.

Scott MacCallum, Editor

SUPPORT TEAM FOR BRITISH MASTERS

The Belfry have kindly offered BIGGA five places on their Support Team

at the 2007 Quinn British Masters, to be staged at the Belfry from


The five BIGGA Support Team members will work alongside the main crew

led by Superintendent Kenny MacKay. Kenny is looking for greenkeepers that

are competent machine operators, as the work of the support team will consist of

moving of all cut areas of the golf course along with bunker maintenance. Also a valid driving licence would be of benefit.

All members of the Support Team will need to arrive on September 16th

and stay until the 23rd. Free accommodation, food and soft drinks will be given to all Support Team members during their stay.

All applications to be made to Kenny MacKay, Director of Golf Course &

Grounds. Tel: 01675 470301 or email: kenny.mackay@thebelfry.com

TONY JACKLIN DESIGNS MAJOR NEW

GOLF DEVELOPMENT

Tony Jacklin, the most successful European Ryder Cup Captains, has

been contracted to design a new golf course development in Cyprus.

The man regarded as ‘Europe’s first golf superstar’ is also in discussion

with golf course developers in the Middle East, continental Europe

and the Caribbean – all of which follow his recent collaboration

with Jack Nicklaus on the vaunted now ‘The Concession’ course in

Florida, USA.

Tony, aged 62, has made a conscious decision to concentrate on golf

course design, and is looking forward to taking a unique, hands-on

approach with his projects – which will bear all the hallmarks of the

Open and US Open champion.

He said: “I have decided only to take on a limited number of design

contracts at any one time, as this gives me the opportunity to get

personally and deeply involved in each of the projects.

“I hope that my signature design courses will be my legacy in Europe, 

where I learned the game, and made many friends and enjoyed many 

of my finest moments in the sport.”

By becoming personally involved in each project – from the very first

preliminary design meetings, right through to the official opening – Tony

hopes to forge an enduring link with the golfing community. And he

is determined that each and every one of his Tony Jacklin Signature

designed golf courses will be a very special place for golfers to learn the

game, play and most of all enjoy their golf.

GENTLEMAN DON: 1938 - 2007

It’s with great sadness that a true friend to greenkeepers all over the West Country passed away suddenly on Monday, May 14, 2007.

I first met Don when I was a young lad starting on my career path at Saunton GC in North Devon. Don at the time had his own Company based at Bovey Tracey in Devon making and selling topdressing across the South West, his Company also sold fertilisers and course sundries.

First and foremost Don was a family man who loved his wife and daughters and later on his grandchildren, West Country greenkeepers and greensman both young and old were an extension of Don’s family, he always had time to have a chat and always asked about the family before turning to the topical sports story of the day.

Don lived life to the full with his positive attitude that rubbed off on everyone he met, he would always see the good points in people and encourage them with his positive manor.

During recent times Don has been working for Roffeys as their representative in the Devon & Cornwall area, he was also the Section’s events organiser for Devon and Cornwall where he continued to drive the Section forward.

I’m sure Don would like us to remember him with a smile, many of you will have your own memories of gentleman Don, my most fondest memory has to be Don taking an order for materials on the back of a cigarette packet and losing it before he could place the order back at his desk.

Richard Whyman, BIGGA Past Chairman

BMW SUPPORT TEAM 2007

Once again a team of volunteer greenkeepers were on hand at The Wentworth Club for the BMW PGA Championship, held at the end of May.

A small team were on steady duty on the Thursday and Friday of the event in case of bad weather.

Fortunately the weather was kind on these two days, and glorious sunshine was experienced by all with only our Chairman, Billy McMillan, suffering with a touch of sunburn on his visit to the Course!

A rapid change in conditions meant that the full contingent of 40 volunteers were armed with squeegees as well as bunker rakes for the last two days of the Championship.

With the help of Chris Kennedy and his greensstaff, the West Course stood up well to a day of incessant, and at times, very heavy rain with no delays in play on the final day.

Once again this year competitors had to negotiate a few subtle changes and modifications to the Course instigated by Ernie Els and Chris.

The winner of this year’s event was Anders Hansen who beat Justin Rose on the 1st extra hole of a play-off.

Clive Dougall, South East Regional Administrator

CONMENDATION AWARD

The Altonwood Golf Group based in Godstone, Surrey has been given a Special Commendation at South East Learning Skills Council’s (LSC) inaugural Employer of the Year Awards. The company collected the commendation in the medium employer category, Employing about 100 people, five of Altonwood’s young employees are on work-based Apprenticeship programmes with Kent-based Hadlow, one of the UK’s leading land-based colleges.

The awards ceremony was hosted by former Olympic athlete Colin Jackson CBE who also presented the prizes. Speaking on behalf of Altonwood, Matt Maxfield said “The commendation means a lot to us. As a result of taking on Apprentices, we have invested in the development of young people and now have a quality, enthusiastic confident, qualified staff and increased staff retention. We aim to take on more Apprentices in the future.”