The new Trump International Links, currently under construction near Aberdeen, is going to be absolutely superb.

The course is cut through some of the highest and most spectacular dunes to be found anywhere, and it is a real credit to Architect, Martin Hawtree, Constructor, Sid Golf, and, John Bambury who is responsible for the grow-in.

If the preconception was that a Donald Trump golf course would be big on cart paths, ornamental fountains and burger concessions, discreetly located beyond every third tee, you will be pleasantly surprised. It certainly does not fit the archetypal mould of an American-style course. It has been designed to be walked – ideally with caddies – and there is not a buggy to be found anywhere, never mind a path for one.

The course is totally in keeping with the environment and, outside of the trees, greens and bunkers it would be hard to identify any man-made touches.

You can read all about this much talked about new course in our exclusive profile elsewhere in this issue. It includes interviews with both John Bambury and Martin Hawtree.

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The golf course is sure to establish itself very at the top of the British and international game and the arrival of top tournaments will surely follow.

It confirms the North of Scotland’s place as one of the highlights of the BIGGA calendar. It will open in July of next year which ties in beautifully with the 100th anniversary of Martin’s family golf architecture firm.

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It confirms the North of Scotland’s place as a must-visit destination for golfers wishing to experience the best the UK and Ireland has to offer.

There are established clubs like Royal Dornoch, Nairn, and Royal Aberdeen, which received massive plaudits for its hosting of the recent Walker Cup, as well as the hidden gems including Cruden Bay, Tain and Boat of Garten.

Then there is the fantastic Castle Stuart, which caught the imagination of so many when it hosted the Barclays Scottish Open in July, despite being less than two years old.

All are classic, or guaranteed to become classic, golf courses and each is maintained to the highest possible standard by Course Managers, who all know how to cope with the slightly more extreme weather conditions that particular area of the UK throws up.

The weather may be cold but as a golfing destination the north of Scotland is definitely hot.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Jason Hunt on becoming BIGGA’s Champion Golfer for 2011. The BIGGA National Championship, sponsored by Charterhouse and Kubota, was a wonderful event made more so because of the wonderful welcome by West Lancs Golf Club, and two superb sponsors.

The camaraderie of the players, many of whom return year after year, is a delight to see, while the quality of golf, at the top end of the field, is second to none.

The aim is to identify BIGGA’s Champion, but the competition is open to all –there are handicap prizes for example, the main one being won by Mark Blacknell – and it remains one of the highlights of the BIGGA calendar.

Irvine Bogside, another wonderful golf course, hosts next year, so why not make a point of playing?

Scott MacCallum
Editor

North of Scotland is where it’s at