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The manufacturers of ALCON PUMPS approve and utilise new and modern prime movers as they become available, thus giving the customer the facility of an engine of his preference.

Briggs and Stratton, Honda and Villiers are still prominent in the petrol ranges and Lister-Petter or Yanmar in the diesel.

At the trend is towards the use of lightweight diesel engines alongside petrol engines on the smaller pumps. The introduction of carrying frames produces a very compact and truly portable set. Wherever ALCON PUMPS are in use there exists a technical and back-up service not far away in the form of our agency network, who can call upon the manufacturers for support whenever necessary.

The economy and increased working life achieved by diesel power has resulted in several companies developing conversions for petrol powered grass care machinery.

Among these companies is RFE Turf Machinery of Midhurst, West Sussex which has fitted a Fuji ‘Robin’ DY35 diesel to the Ransome Motor 180.

RFE has plans to convert other machines to diesel power as it sees more and more professional users looking towards diesel economy in the future.

Greenkeeping Management

Keith Child, managing director of Meetens, told Greenkeeping Management that due to the fact that they now hold in store what is said to be the largest range of engines and spares available from one source, many of their clients have stopped holding inventory and rely on Meetens as their permanent stock room.

Kohler Command Engines 5HP Horizontal Shaft/12.5HP Vertical Shaft.
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BOOK REVIEW

THOSE so called "fortunates" who witnessed live the final stages of the 1989 Ryder Cup match between GB-Europe and the USA, at the much hyped and horribly overcrowded Belfry, or indeed the countless millions who, in the greater comfort of their own homes, watched the excellent camera coverage on television, will recall again and again 'The Tie of '89'.

As a series the matches were quite spectacular and Ryder Cup fever certainly held the British public as never before. It therefore came as no great surprise to this reviewer that an "official" version of the match history, bearing the approval of such a revered body as the P.G.A., was available on the bookstalls a mere eight weeks after the cheering had died.

Entitled The Official History of the Ryder Cup 1927-1989 by Michael Williams, (200 pages, Stanley Paul £14.95) this particular work is both definitive and immediately respectable, though it is by no means the first history written about seed merchant Sam Ryder's dream, a dream which took years to mature, which at one time looked in danger of dying, and which is now transformed into a twentieth century promotional dream ticket.

I've often wondered about these official 'official' book tags though, and confess to a sneaking admiration for many 'unofficial' tomes - especially those purporting to tell the "real truth", the unexpurgated events such as the "unofficial" Frank Sinatra Story which spelled out things Sinatra would have preferred kept secret.

But this journal is about golf and I must address the subject at hand. So...let us examine how this "official" version is different from, say, Michael Hobbs' dream, a dream which took years to mature, which at one time looked in danger of dying, and which is now transformed into a twentieth century promotional dream ticket.

I can find very little contained within the PGA approved version that is not also found in Hobbs' interpretation, save the inclusion of the resulting most recent tie at The Belfry. What is different - and vive la difference - is the presentation and writing style.

Reading Michael Williams is an enjoyment I share with countless others, for he is a skilful newspaperman who might best be described as 'the thinking golfer's journalist'. This book is a bonny slice of the man, each chapter about the length of a single newspaper article, each expertly researched and each presented in Williams' own highly individual and instantly recognisable style.

This excellent book, covering as it does the true, unforgettable facts of those twenty one wins by The Unites States, the more five wins by the Great Britain & Northern Ireland cup European teams and the two tied matches - perhaps more memorable to our side than the opposition - is as complete as one might hope.

It is interspersed throughout with the most obligating team photographs and, using first person accounts, gives fresh insights from such worthies as Sam Torrance, Lee Trevino and Henry Cotton, (interviewed shortly before his death) who lay before us our own interpretations of the triumphs and tragedies that sixty years of sporting Ryder Cup warfare have brought.

The book can be said to encapsulate the spirit of what is a unique golfing contest and for that reason alone - and the aforementioned euphoria still sweeping through the burgeoning golfing population - it will fully entertain a ready and appreciative audience.


In the past two decades the European golf tour has changed dramatically - for the better. Prize money is higher, competition is keener, crowds are bigger, interest more intense, playing facilities and standards greatly improved.

This development has been traced in a number of excellent books and the literature of the game has charted the progress that has been made.

But the story of the journeyman professional, the middle-of-the-table golfer, so to speak, has never been told before. Now Ian Mosey, one of that happy band of pilgrims who have flogged Europe in the seventies - and is still on the circuit as a full time competitor - describes a life which can be a mixture of wild optimism and deep despair, though at times his story is mixed with a tremendous sense of camaraderie and of fun.

His earliest experiences on the tour make amusing reading and involve professionals who have reached the very top as well as those who have pondered quietly over the game for years. All are remembered with equal affection.

'On the Golf Tour' has been written in collaboration with Ian's father Don Mosey, "The Alderman" of BBC Radio's Test Match Special commentary team, who has thrown in for good measure his own experiences of golfing with cricketers around the world and of commenting on major golfing occasions.

Above all, this is a story of a young man who only ever wanted to do one thing with his life - to play golf - and who has done it with immense delight for more than twenty years.

On The Golf Tour - A Journeyman Professional's Story by Ian and Don Mosey is published by Methuen at £12.99.

That Ian Woosnam is popular with the Press and with his fellow professionals can almost go without saying. His lively character, his sheer determination and his quite incredible power (despite being only 5'4" tall) earn him favour and respect wherever he might be.

In 'Ian Woosnam's Golf Masterpieces', he reveals a declared source of his inspiration; "In this anthology I have tried to express some of my love for the game and just how much I love it. The more you play and the more about golf, the more you marvel at the demands it makes, not just on your physical skill but also on your temperament. The moment you think you have golf licked it comes behind you and bites you in the rear...the game can be agony and ecstasy...and although this is true for the professional as it is for the 28 handicap.'

Apart from selecting some of the immortal writings from the likes of Bernard Darwin, Pat Ward-Thomas, Herbert Warren Wind, Peter Doberenier, Henry Longhurst, Henry Cotton, Bobby Jones and many others, Ian - or perhaps more correctly his co-writer/editor Peter Grosvenor - intersperses each chosen piece with a short essay, a personal observation, and although this approach is commonplace in such an anthology it is done here with a thoughtfulness which is admirable.

In addition, and it is here that the book really scores, Ian unveils his own story, his playing "secrets", his early struggles and the days spent flogging round the minor circuits with a dodgy caravette and a diet of baked beans and dreams... all good stuff, it is a fine introduction to a worthwhile airing of some of the excellent literature of golf.

Ian Woosnam's Golf Masterpiece Classic Tales from the Clubhouse - is published by Sidgwick Softbacks at £9.99.

'Golf - The Golden Years' compiled by Sarah Baddiel, is a pictorial anthology celebrating the golden age, an age of amateurism and near innocence, one that lovers of the game think of with affection and a touch of nostalgia.

Although offered as an anthology, I would be happier in describing it as a picture book, illustrating as it does those one hundred and one things which go to make up a golfing collection; from the treasured, enormously expensive, and well-worn "Masterpieces", to the ephemeral and somewhat dotty items (one collector we know hoards golfing score card pencils, each of the many thousands held identical save for the title of the club imprinted thereupon!) which might leave a question mark on the sanity of the collector.

The abundant coloured pictures are excellent, the chosen writers above criticism and the whole well presented. At £7.95 it is without doubt a bargain. The real pity is that much of the text is peppered with spelling and grammatical errors which appear either to have escaped or been ignored by the compiler, the proof reader and the publishers. An unty, scruffy approach to an important subject which mars an otherwise fine publication.


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