Americas Team captures inaugural Hayter Cup

However, camaraderie &
good will are real winners

By TREvor LEDGER

LIVERPOOL, England — A team representing The Americas has captured the first Hayter International Cup, contested here at West Lancashire Golf Club in September. Twelve superintendents from the Western Hemisphere overcame greenkeepers representing the Rest of the World 9.5 points to 7.5.

The match was keen and close, the weather sublime, the course beautiful and hospitality excellent. However, the event’s organization was by far and away its most outstanding feature. Organizers deserve high praise, indeed, especially Hayter Director of Sales and Marketing Kim Macfie and Neil Thomas, executive director of the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association (BIGGA), whose inspirational vision devised the event.

The West Lancs course provided a stern physical test, as The Americas’ Sam Williamson will attest. Interest has certainly been piqued for the rematch, tentatively scheduled for the Atlanta area in 1998.

Perversely the inaugural competition, though fierce, was relegated to the role of backcloth to the weekend’s whole — the social and professional meeting of minds from around the world. Over dinner, in the bar, around the course, the talk was naturally enough centered on the common ground of tending the cultured (or otherwise) turf of various and wildly differing workplaces.

This was not the talk of businessmen discussing the market and other such drudgeries. This was something much more than that. To a casual eavesdropper in the hotel bar, the Australian, Swede and Canadian might well have been talking about a much loved but wayward child instead of what — don’t forget — a workplace. The standard sentences of the evening generally began with, “Have you tried...? Hey, have you ever seen...?

How many staff...?”

That’s not to say the competition was ignored. Far from it. But it was viewed more as a catalyst — a good excuse for being there.

The practice round on the Sunday (Sept. 15) was interesting and had the propensity to be irrelevant as far as getting to know the West Lancs course. Following a relatively poor summer, the Lancashire Coast threw up a memory from summers past, i.e. warm and windless. Being a true seaside links, the likelihood was that, come match day, the wind would blow flat out and turn the pussycat into a tiger.

But lessons were learned (or at least should have been): the punitive rough was to be avoided at all costs; flying straight to the pin would bring only tears; and some of the bunkers would require safety ropes.

Add the fact that a cold spring and cool, dry

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Hayter International Results
Sept. 18, West Lancashire GC
Liverpool, England

Four-Ball Matches: Americas 3.5 — Rest of the World 2.5
No. 1: Dusch/Nichols halved Derek
McClanahan (Great Britain)/Andreas
Kauler (Germany)
No. 2: Williamson/Charters halved Michael
Dolahn (Sweden)/Peter
Schumacher (Australia)
No. 3: Fredrik Goo (Sweden)/Cosme
Bergareche del. McGinnis/de Udaorta, 2 & 4
No. 4: Grigg/Mayer halved Alex Reid
(Scotland)/Ignacio Soto Alarcon (Spain)
No. 5: Morrison/Renault def. Brian
Mulholland (Ireland)/Matthias Ehser
(Germany), 6 & 5
No. 6: Heron/Torres def. Ian Buckley
(England)/Peter Frewin (Australia), 1 up

Single Matches: Americas 6.6 —
Rest of the World 6.8
No. 1: Dusch def. Dohlon, 5 & 4
No. 2: Nichols def. Schumacher, 5 & 4
No. 3: Mcclanahan def. Williamson, 2 & 1
No. 4: Charters def. Kauler, 3 & 1
No. 5: de Udaorta def. Reid, 2 up
No. 6: Almonc de McGinnis, 5 & 3
No. 7: Meyer def. Goo, 1 up
No. 8: Bergareche def. Grigg, 4 & 3
No. 9: Morrison halved Buckley
No. 10: Frewin def. Sencott, 7 & 6
No. 11: Heron def. Mulholland, 1 up
No. 12: Ehser def. Torres, 3 & 2

Participants from The Americas team included Samuel Williamson, CGCS at Ooj (Calif.) Valley Inn & Country Club; Dean Morrison, CGCS at Calgary Golf & Country Club in Alberta, Canada; Thomas Charters, Bayview Golf Club, Thornhill, Ont.; Doug Mayer, CGCS at Cedardale Golf Club in St. Sophie, Quebec; Robert Heron, CGCS at Beacon Hall Golf Club in Brampton, Ont.; Ricardo de Udoarta, Buenos Aires, Argentina; Eduardo Torres, Buenos Aires, Argentina; Paul McGinnis, CGCS at Moon Valley Country Club, Phoenix, Ariz. (GCSCA vice president); George Renault III, CGCS at Burning Tree Club, Bethesda, Md. (GCSCA secretary/treasurer); Gary Grigg, CGCS at Royal Poinciana Golf Club, Naples, Fla. (GCSCA immediate past president); Randy Nichols, CGCS at Cherokee Town & Country Club, Atlanta, Ga. (GCSCA past president); Jim Dusch, CGCS at Atlanta National Golf Club, Atlanta, Ga.

Hayter Notebook

The language barrier between teammates/competitors might have caused a problem. Not a bit of it, as Brian Mulholland of Northern Ireland was teamed with Matthias Ehser of Germany. Mulholland’s caddy inquired of the less-continental “Do you speak English?”

“No,” came the reply.

Mulholland’s thick Irish brogue then boomed across the hotel-bound bus: “You English. Start off with this when you speak, ‘What the [expletive deleted] am I doing in here, Brian?’ “Matthias grinned but looked more than a bit confused, as the bus load collapsed in hilarity.

Dean Morrison of the Americas tried to break the tension of the first tee. “I was thinking about this shot all last night,” he laughed and proceeded to sky it 30 yards right, into jungle rough at the bottom of the club flagpole.

“And you’ll be thinking of it tonight as well,” came an amorous response.

Michael Dohlon of Sweden noticed my Golf Course News shirt in the hotel bar on Saturday night. “Write this,” he commanded — I noticed his bloodshot eyes and mas-

sive shoulders and naturally acquiesced.

“We will win” he said.

“Why?” I inquired.

“Because we are better than them, of course.”

Dohlon halved his four-ball and lost 5 and 4 to Jim Dusch in the afternoon. Better than whom? I wonder.

On a similar note, Peter Frewin of Aus-

tralia was only too happy to give a predic-

tion. “Oh, I’ll win,” he predicted.

Once again, “Why?” was my response.

“I haven’t flown half way round the bloody world to lose, mate,” was Frewin’s forthright and fearless response.

Such frankness was not so noticeable in the Americas team camp which maintained a dignified reticence and professional front throughout. Not so jocular perhaps but winners...
The Hayter Cup

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summer had made for poor growing conditions on the close cropped fairways. All of these factors suggested the superb West Lanes course would provide a stiff enough test, gauntlet or no. View the description "pussycat" in a purely relative sense...

The range of playing ability was wide, from plus-1 handicap to more than 12. This in mind, the opportunity for some one-sided matches was very real. As this would have been contrary to the spirit of the contest, organizers and team captains agreed to avoid such a scenario by implementing some of the following rules for the 17th, with only Dean Morrison and George Renault of the 17th, with only Dean Morrison and George Renault of the 17th, with only Dean Morrison and George Renault of the two courses.

The results show, this was a successful move with only five matches out of 18 being reasonably described as "comfortable victories/uncomfortable defeats." The matches were extremely closely contested, four of six went to the 18th, one to the 17th, with only Dean Morrison and George Renault of the 17th, with only Dean Morrison and George Renault of the 17th, with only Dean Morrison and George Renault of the four courses, it was great: "This is everything I was looking for."

Emergency plan

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along with worst-case scenario of a golfer — heart failure with a lack of oxygen — how much time is required to start immediate first aid, summoned trained emergency personnel with equipment, and deliver the golfer to a hospital? Not hours, but minutes.

This scenario required a plan to coordinate all potential participants. Pat Vanderstine is general manager of the golf course. It was appropriate to discuss my concerns with her. She readily agreed from a humanitarian standpoint that I should proceed.

The beginning of the plan required training the golf course with paper and pencil viewing the course with an entirely new perspective. Example: The Hagen first hole has water crossing the fairway at 90 degrees halfway between tee and green. The water is crossed by a bridge whose integrity is adequate for golf carts, but surely not for a heavy emergency vehicle. An emergency situation would require the exact location of a golfer needing assistance. Is the golfer between the tee box and the water or is the golfer between the water and the green? This exercise started the creation of many pages of notes. It was quite apparent a layout of the golf course, along with the adjacent club houses, would be needed. A trip to the fire department and the tax office located the needed street layout. The Fire Chief Darrel Pratt was very enthusiastic about the development of this plan; he offered any needed cooperation by his department.

On one of the layouts the water, macadam paths tee boxes and greens were established and colored. Water was blue, paths were black while tee boxes and greens were green. With the notes gathered prior, access points established and in red on the layout. This was accomplished after many meetings with the fire chief and deputy fire chief. The layout had a total of 12 access points.

The next order of business was to set forth a simple set of instructions for course personnel (see related story). Copies of these instructions and the course layout with the access point were reviewed with Chief Pratt for his final approval. The copy was turned over to the police department. The fire department conducted training sessions with their personnel to familiarize them with it. At no cost to the golf course, Chief Pratt offered to run training sessions on CPR and artificial respiration for all golf course personnel — paid and volunteer.

All golf courses should have an emergency evacuation plan. Just because a course has a number of holes that aren’t close to public roads is no excuse. There should be a plan in place and personnel familiar with its operation.

Here, this issue has been discussed from the humanitarian standpoint. There is, I believe, a legal side to the question. A player goes down with a heart attack and dies on the course 15 minutes later. The only people in attendance were his fellow players who were untrained. A negligence suit is waiting to happen. An attorney for the deceased’s heirs can and would raise many critical questions of the golf course and possibly the local emergency department. With my training in risk management I saw a potential problem, but I also saw a practical way to reduce and minimize the problem.

Buena Vista Golf Holdings

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course management industry, and favorable indicators that the game will enjoy increased participation in nearly all market segments.

“The because of the demographics of the U.S. population, we view golf as a growth business from the demand side,” Frost said. “With the increasing financial and environmental roadblocks to building new golf courses, it will be difficult for the supply side to keep up.”

Along with its management arrangement for the 36-hole LPGA world headquarters, the company has been named the exclusive management and development company for the LPGA. “We’re working on plans to expand the LPGA’s golf course identity in other parts of the world,” Frost said. “It won’t be too dissimilar to the way the PGA Tour has developed the TPC (Tournament Players Club) concept.”

P GA’s Reserve augments Fla. butterfly population

PORT ST. LUCIE, Fla. — Audubon International has presented its top award to the PGA Golf Club at The Reserve — only the fifth in the nation to receive Audubon’s Signature Stature for its level of excellence. The award ceremony — complete with a live butterfly release — took place during The Reserve’s opening dedication celebration attended by hundreds of PGA delegates from across the country, special guests and the news media.

PARAMUS, N.J. — Ridgewood Country Club has become the second course in the state to achieve designation as a “Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary” by the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System. Our efforts and accomplishments are part of an overall plan to not only maintain The Ridgewood Country Club as one of the top golfing facilities in the U.S. but also to make our club environmentally sound,” said Ridgewood President Fred Nydegger.

“The club is extremely committed to preserving the natural environment on its 275-acre complex,” explained Ridgewood superintendent John J. Gasper, “and our long-range environmental plan was created so that RCC can improve and sustain our desired level of environmental quality for years to come.”

RYE, N.Y. — Westchester Country Club has been designated a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary by the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System. Westchester is the third course in New York to receive the honor.

“We are proud to have reached this status and look forward to maintaining and further enhancing our Audubon program,” said superintendent Joe Alonzi.

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