Americas Team captures inaugural Hayter Cup

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 thick Irish brogue then boomed across the hotel-bound bus: "What the [expletive deleted] am I doing in here, Brian?" "Matthews 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 amorphous response."

Michael Dohlon of Sweden noticed my Golf Course News shirt in the hotel bar on Sunday night. "Write this," he commanded — I noticed his bloodshot eyes and massive 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 Australia was only too happy to give a prediction. "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 reasonable 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...