

# DEVASTATION



EVERYONE will appreciate the tragedy of the hurricane force winds that swept the south east corner of England on that fateful night. Considering the conditions, the loss of life was remarkably low, but the devastation to property and wildlife is incalculable.

The statistics make appalling reading - the damage to buildings running into millions of pounds but somehow no matter how serious one has the feeling that buildings are replaceable. What is clearly not, are the thousands of mature trees that have been lost. The landscape will not be the same for decades and it is said that more trees were lost in twelve hours than in a decade of Dutch Elm disease. All species were affected - not only the bending, snapping poplars, but 100 year

old oaks crashed to the ground. Many trees were literally uprooted as the ground, sodden by the dreadfully wet summer, failed to hold the roots under the stress of winds constantly over a 100mph.

No course in the path of the hurricane could have escaped without some damage, but a special thought went to Kevin Munt at Wentworth in charge of his first World Matchplay Championship and Cameron McMillan one of the youngest head men in the country, in charge at Liphook for the Daily Telegraph South Eastern County finals. Chain-saws not triplexes were the order of the day.

Winter renovation programmes will be thrown out by all the additional work and long hours

# FRIDAY 16TH



will have to be put in by already hard pressed greenstaff to ensure courses are back in play as soon as possible.

Tony Gentil's series on trees could not have been published at a more relevant time and it is certain that this series of articles, which has already been well received, will be a useful guide when it comes to repairing and replacing the damage. Tony will be contributing an article on the after-effects of the hurricane in the New Year.

No doubt there are many horrific tales to tell and pictures to publish - we would like to hear from any of our readers of their experiences on that fateful night. Experiences shared often help to overcome the feeling that "this could only happen to me", as well as offering possible solutions to common problems.



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