

CLIPPINGS

By The Mower

Odds-on Sale for Race and Golf Course

Lingfield Park, best known for horse racing, but which also contains a golf course within the complex, is up for sale. Leisure Investments plc, who made a disastrous move into the casino business both at home and overseas are inviting offers for the freehold of Lingfield Park. Shareholders should also note that one casino has been sold and two others are at the contract stage, though how anyone can lose money when they own the wheel, beats us.

New Golf Course for Wisley

We hear that Southern Golf, the construction company headed by Ray Wilson, are about to sign up a £3m deal with Marlin Estates plc to build an 18 hole golf course at Wisley near Woking. Designed by Robert Trent-Jones Jnr, this will be the first UK course for Bob Junior. Let us hope he does't follow the principles of his father, on his first venture in Britain. When Moor Allerton, near Leeds was opened in the seventies, the greens were unreadable and the course so difficult, most professionals had to perform a minor miracle to break par.

Vacancies for Golf Writers

As the golf scene 'booms' so the serious golf writers decline. Doyen of the current bunch, Peter Dobereiner, is expected to put down his pen for the Observer in the New Year, which leaves Michael Williams on the Telegraph and Mitchell Platts for The Times as the two established names among a diminishing handful of readable and informed national scribes.

We hear golf course architect, Donald Steel, who writes for the Sunday Telegraph is also to cease his contributions, due to a staff editorial merger.

ICI's Media Day

ICI's Professional Products Division took a number of those hard-working amenity turf reporters to the Northamptonshire County Golf Club in October to test their skills with the little white ball.

Most would say it was purely in the line of business to inspect the bents and fescues (there were plenty of those), the golf was incidental!

However, The Golf Course publisher, Michael Coffey steered his ball nearest the pin for a bottle of Black Label - with borrowed clubs we might add, and 'The Mole' popped up from Turf Management and used his new Hogans to good effect, to also make the prize table.

Record Broken

Remember the article in March this year on the Yorkshire course at Shipley Beckfoot, where Head Greenkeeper, Pat Murphy, re-built a green from the drains upward and had it back in play within a month? Well, we hear he has slashed the time taken on his latest project by almost half!

Pat lifted the par-3, 17th green in September and had it playing in a major tournament in just 18 days. Not only that, but during the month the club were without a steward so he ran the bar in his spare time.

The Way Forward?

The owners of Hintlesham Hall in Suffolk may be showing others the way forward, for this exclusive hotel, once owned by chef Robert Carrier has just completed an 18 hole course. Designed by Hawtree & Son and built by Land Unit Construction, it is open to hotel guests, individual and corporate members only - no visitors. With a club membership of 400/450 paying £1300 entrance fee and £750 a year subscription (both plus VAT) - exclusivity is assured!!