

# TOUGH ATTHE TOP!



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# ROYAL LY

Royal Lytham, the 870 member club at the posher end of Blackpool has attracted considerable criticism as a venue for the Open Championship since its popularity has attracted increasing crowds for the event.

Over the nine days including the practice sessions 205,285 turned up to break the previous record attendance at St. Andrews in 1984 by 12,000. This figure is 70,000 up on the 1979 Championship.

As a test of golf Royal Lytham is superb for both the amateur and the professional, its main drawback is the lack of space for the now necessary tented village and hospitality accommodation.

> Better car parking needed if Royal Lytham is to stage the open again.

These were squeezed into the land adjoining the course, but without doubt it is the car parking that causes the organisers the greatest problem. Although the R & A say the thousands of visitors don't mind walking two miles to the course a great number believe this aspect of the event needs considerable improvement.

Having paid £2 to park the car a hike across a roped off walk way littered with cow pats, that no one had bothered to clear up is not the best start to a day out. Buses were said to be available, but only for the aged and infirm and few would admit to either.

At Royal Birkdale car parking is provided well away from the course, but an excellent shuttle bus service operates continuously, keeping traffic congestion well away from the entrances and ad-

## BRITISH ANDW O

The golfing season has so far provided some of the most memorable golf ever (and in the UK, the wettest weather too!). Three of the world's four major tournaments have now taken place and each has produced classic golf and nail-biting finishes.

International Sport Showcase has already released a video of Sandy Lyle's unforgettable triumph in the US Masters and on August 19th delivers two more essential items for golf fans — The 1988 British Open and The 1988 US Open.

The US Open took place in glorious sunshine at The Country Club, Brookline, Massachusetts between 16th and 19th June. It was another example of European golf's ascendance with our own Nick Faldo battling neck-and-neck with America's Curtis Strange.

Still level after 72 holes, Faldo and Strange continued their

joining properties.

It is certain Royal Lytham will remain on the Champion-ship list if the members have a say in the matter. They are quite prepared to sacrifice their golf for weeks for the honour of five days in the spotlight.

Royal Lytham also has a superb recovery capability. Within a week or so the course was back to its best with only some of the cross over points showing signs of wear and despite the beating down of the turf new grass is already showing through.

Later in the season, Head Greenkeeper, Jimmy McDonald will put the vertidrain across the fairways to relieve compaction and let the sites off the course area recuperate naturally.



### THAM 'OPEN' REVIEW

### D US OPEN VIDEO

titanic struggle into an 18 hole play-off, from which Strange finally emerged victorious.

In between the rainstorms at Royal Lytham and St. Anne's recently, The British Open produced some electrifying golf, by highlighted Seve Ballesteros's spectacular final round of 65 — equalling the course record — which won him the coveted title.

His tussle with Zimbabwe's Nick Price during that last round (on the Monday due to Saturday's play being abandoned) was an epic with Price matching Ballesteros's outrageous stroke-play right up until the last couple of holes. Vintage

Both titles retail for just £9.99 and will give viewers a second chance to see an 'Open' duel to match the classic Watson v Nicklaus shoot-out at Turnberry in 1977.



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Ballesteros nurses the Open Trophy for the second successive time at Royal Lytham.

#### **Accrington Greenkeeper** qualifies for the Open

Trevor Foster, Accrington's 28 year old Head Greenkeeper, finally made the Open Championship on his fourth attempt to qualify, but it was his young caddy who grabbed the head-

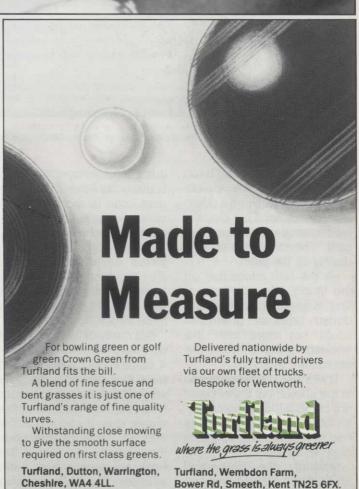
Foster, the Lancashire amateur champion pre-qualified at Ormskirk with a round of 72, then made second place in the final qualifier at Blackpool North

Although he failed to make the cut he did have the unique distinction of heading the leader board for a fleeting moment on the opening day as one of the early starters and his first day score of 74 looked good enough

to keep him in the hunt.

Unfortunately a second round of 79 scuppered his chances and he missed the cut by five shots, though so did Peter Baker, winner of this year's Benson & Hedges and other such famous names like Raymond Floyd, Hal Sutton, Tony Jacklin, Mark Calcavecchia and Australian David Graham.

Foster's caddy, 14 year old Ryan Done was so keen to carry the bag for Trevor he issued an ultimatum to his parents who wanted him to join them on a holiday in France. - "If you insist, I will run away from home", he told them.



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