

INTERNATIONAL OUTLOOK

How to play golf in two countries at the same time

When you pay your green fee at Tornio Harparanda Green Zone Golf you get more than a scorecard – you get a borderline passport. The 6180m par 72 course straddles the borders of Finland and Sweden, so when you register at the club's reception you get a scorecard that is also a licence to cross the border. On the back of it, where you'd normally find local rules, there are the duty-free allowances for cigarettes, alcohol and foodstuffs.

The clubhouse, driving range and first two holes are in Finland. From the third tee you hit the ball into Sweden. On the 6th you come back into Finland. The second nine starts with a drive back into Sweden and you play most of this half in that country before driving back into Finland on the 18th.

Green Swedes

The Swedish Golf Federation has produced an environmental programme. As far as maintenance routines are concerned, it says: • the use of fertilisers and pesticides shall be judged by the need; • to check the extent of purification and to register possible leaches of nutritions or pesticides, earth and water tests shall be carried out at regular intervals. As regards the water tests, they shall be carried out at the influx and at the outflux; • in those areas where grass clippings cannot be left, the clippings shall be composted in places especially established for that purpose; • roughs are maintained according to a prearranged plan and with consideration to the natural flora (selection of equipment for mowing and the date of mowing); • if there are ancient monuments within the area, these shall be maintained in accordance with received instructions: • areas not in play shall be maintained in accordance with a written plan, aiming at biodiversity according to each local circumstance; • the use of pesticides shall be minimised.

Bound for Algarve

Peter Wisbey has a new job and a flashy new title. He has been appointed technical director of Planal SA's Quinta do Lago courses in the Algarve.

Peter, 47, has been working in Portugal for the past seven years, moving there to supervise the finishing works and growing in of the San Lorenzo course. For the following four years he was responsible for both San Lorenzo and the Penina courses in his capacity as regional golf superintendent for Trusthouse Forte.

Having seen San Lorenzo rise into Golf World's top ten of European courses, Peter moved to the nearby Pinheiros Altos course.

After nearly three years moving the course through final finishing and grown-in towards maturity, the lure of the neighbouring Quinta do lago complex with its 36-hole championship layout, seven times the venue for the Portugese Open, proved irresistable. Peter will still, however, manage Pinheiros Altos on a consultancy basis.

Since 1987 Peter's expertise in the management of warm-season grasses has become acknowledged throughout Portugal and he has been involved on a consultancy basis with a number of projects, the most recent of which are Salgados, an 18-hole links course in the Algarve, and Quinta da Peru, a new William Roquemore designed course near Lisbon.

UK arm of US body

The English members of the American Sod Producers Association have set up a turf growers association in the UK: Turf Producers International - UK. Chairman Derek Edwards of the Inturf Group said: "We have for some years recognised the need for a proper organisation to represent our industry and once we managed to get everyone around a table, prompted by earlier ASPA meetings and talks about turf accreditation schemes with NIAB and STRI, everything seemed to fall into place very nicely."

The aims of the 20 founder members are to improve standards of cultivated turf production and distribution, to tackle environmental issues, and to promote a product that is helping to make our environment a whole lot "greener". Tel: 0759 305117.

San Francisco date

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's 66th International Golf Course Conference and Show is scheduled for February 20-27, 1995 in San Francisco.

Tel:

Postcode.