

The wonderful thing about Tiger

It was a wonderful experience to be at St Andrews during The Open and watch history being made. Only four people have completed the modern Grand Slam, and the last time it was achieved was in 1966 by Jack Nicklaus. Therefore, what we witnessed on the 18th green of the Old Course, is not something which comes along every day of the week.

Tiger Woods is an absolute phenomenon, and the impact he has made on golf cannot be underestimated. He has been smashing long-standing records all his life, and to achieve the winning margins he manages against the best of the rest, when golf is regarded as having more strength in depth than in any other time in history, is truly remarkable.

He currently holds three of the four Majors - Vijay Singh has the Masters - but on the form he has shown recently, the once fanciful thought that all four could be won in the same season no longer seems such an out and out long shot. In fact the realistic odds on him doing it at some time in the next ten years would be pretty short.

For golf to possess the number one personality in sport at the moment, is great for the game.

There is a body of opinion that he is simply too good, and that his winning on such a regular basis is monotonous. Indeed this year's Open did lack a bit of excitement and there was a degree of inevitability about the outcome from very early on. But you can't blame Tiger for that. It is the rest who are not good enough, and the players who recognise this quickest - and they do exist - are the ones who will make the biggest inroads into the ability golf.

It will move golf, as a whole, onto a new plane, and the modern breed, led by Tiger, will "play a game of which I'm not familiar" as Bobby Jones said of Nicklaus.

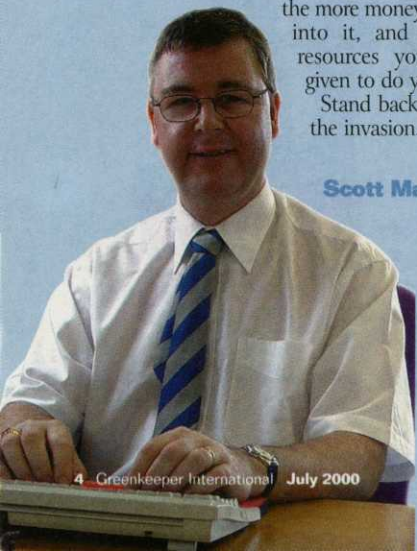
The popularity of golf does move in quantum leaps. We had Arnold Palmer, perhaps the last golfer to have been the most popular sportsman in the world, putting The Open back on the map in the early 60s; we had the arrival of the young swash-buckling Seve Ballesteros in the late 70s and then Europe's historic first Ryder Cup win in ages at The Belfry in 1985. Each of these moved golf on to a new level of popularity and we can expect the same with the impact Tiger has made on the game all over the world.

Golf must be ready for the influx of a whole new group of people wanting to try the game and the more enlightened golf clubs will open their doors to them.

That will be good for all BIGGA members because the more popular the game, the more money will come into it, and the more resources you will be given to do your job.

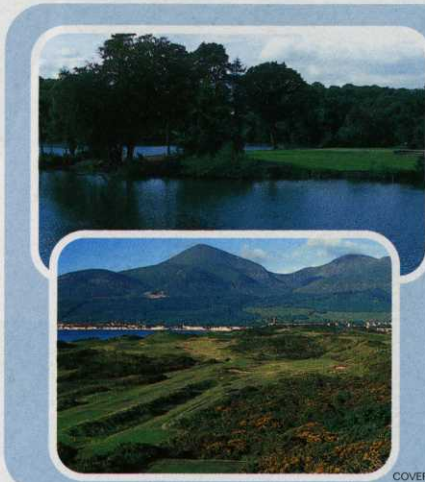
Stand back and await the invasion.

Scott MacCallum
Editor



Greenkeeper

INTERNATIONAL



Different Strokes

Scott MacCallum travelled to Northern Ireland to visit two golf clubs which are completely different but share the same emphasis on excellence. Malone GC and Royal County Down are maintained in stunning fashion by Graeme Wylie and Alan Strachan respectively

Pages 23-31

COVER PHOTO OF ROYAL COUNTY DOWN BY BRIAN MORGAN 0141 2216236

Features

- 33 A Splash of Colour**
Roland Taylor explores water features and examines how to get the most out of them
- 39 Grand Occasion**
Grand Tour Scholarship winner Colin Mumford takes us through the wonderful experience he enjoyed visiting some of the finest courses in the USA
- 44 Tiger Tiger Burning Bright**
Tiger Woods created history at St Andrews and the BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team was there to share the experience
- 28 Old Tom Morris**
Tiger Woods may be the name on everyone's lips at St Andrews nowadays but, as Walter Woods explains, it was Old Tom Morris who made a huge impact first
- 62 Black is Back**
Charcoal is making a return to golf clubs as a useful and practical management tool. Dr Stan Williams explains why
- 65 Saltex Preview**
As we enter late summer we know that Saltex at Windsor is looming. We preview the show
- 77 Hot, Hot, Hot!**
BIGGA's annual Golf Day, this year sponsored by The "A" Group Hotels of Harrogate, was held on the hottest day of the year. Some of the scoring was pretty hot too



33 Add a splash of colour with a water feature



44 Open glory for Tiger