

Renewing a Link to the past

One of the most interesting pieces of news released in the last few weeks was that Royal Liverpool Golf Club, better known as Hoylake, is to return to the Open Championship rota, having last hosted an Open in 1967. Coming hot on the heels of Carnoustie's return in 1999, after a gap of 24 years, it is another example of the R&A's policy of widening the Championship rota.

I don't suppose I'm alone in welcoming this development, particularly as none of the existing venues are being removed.

The Open is an amazing, unique, wonderful event. Every year something happens which quickens the pulse and causes your jaw to drop. Think back over the last few years. We've had Costantino Rocca's amazing putt on the final green at St Andrews to force the play-off with John Daly; Justin Rose's holed chip from the rough to signal the end of his amateur career closely followed by Brian Watt's extraordinarily difficult bunker shot to force a play-off with Mark O'Meara both at Royal Birkdale; then of course there was Jean Van De Velde and local hero Paul Lawrie at Carnoustie and, last year, Tiger Woods at St Andrews becoming the youngest ever to complete the set of Grand Slam events. History in the making.

Before that we've had the Duel in the Sun at Turnberry in 1977; Tony Jacklin at Royal Lytham; Sandy Lyle at Royal St George's; Nick Faldo's 18 straight pars at Muirfield and the first ever four hole play-off at Royal Troon.

Each venue on the current rota has offered something worthy of permanent space in our memory banks and extending the rota will give yet more opportunities for memorable moments.

There are so few classic links courses in this country, and even fewer with the infrastructure to host a modern day Open Championship that the R&A and Royal Liverpool Golf Club must be applauded for taking the initiative and spending the money necessary to make Hoylake a venue again. Since Roberto De Vincenzo won the Championship there in 1967 the Championship has become unrecognisable with a tented village, which should be rights now be known as a town, and media exposure which requires an army of journalists, photographers and broadcasters. I understand extra land has been acquired by the club to ease some of the pressure this brings.

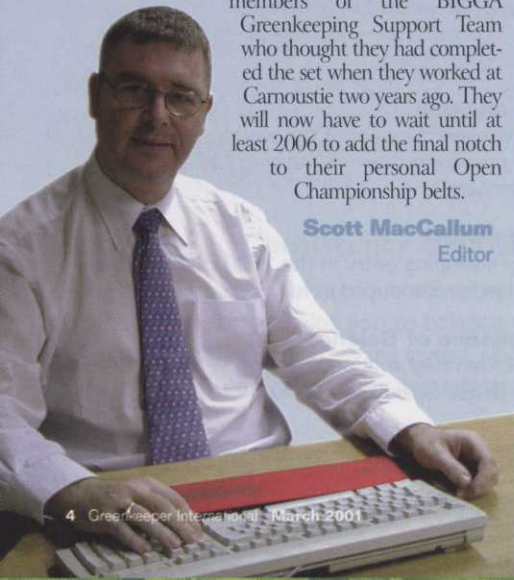
What it does mean is that a wonderful course will again be given the exposure that it deserves and the world's top players will be presented with a challenge they haven't faced before.

That can only add something to the Championship and give, all but the older among us, a new experience for which to look forward.

May I pass on my congratulations to Hoylake and in particular Derek Green who, even now will be making preparations for The Open's return.

The one downside might be for members of the BIGGA Greenkeeping Support Team who thought they had completed the set when they worked at Carnoustie two years ago. They will now have to wait until at least 2006 to add the final notch to their personal Open Championship belts.

Scott MacCallum
Editor



Robert to provide support for Marriott

York-based independent turf consultant, Robert Laycock, (left) has been appointed by Marriott UK to provide agronomic support to the 11 Course Managers at golf courses located at Marriott Hotel and Country Clubs throughout the United Kingdom.

Encompassing 16 separate golf courses in England, Scotland and Wales, the appointment by Marriott UK involves the provision by Robert of advisory visits as well as detailed soil and plant analysis, as required by the individual Course Managers.

Robert's appointment was confirmed by David MacLaren, (pictured right) Director of Golf Operations, Marriott UK: "This appointment is part of a world-wide strategy by our parent, Whitbread plc, aimed at reinforcing Marriott Golf's position as the number one provider of quality golf and associated hotel and leisure facilities in the United Kingdom," he said.

"Although we are very proud of the work carried out by all our



Course Managers, it was felt that they deserved additional independent technical support to help maintain Marriott's golf facilities in peak condition throughout the year."

David explained that Robert came highly recommended having worked closely over the past two years with the Course Managers at Marriott Hanbury Manor and

Marriott Forest of Arden. Both courses are PGA European Tour venues and have hosted four English Opens between them since 1997.

"I am naturally delighted to have been chosen to provide independent agronomic input and technical support to such an important group of golf courses," commented Robert.

Charterhouse present dealer awards



Charterhouse Turf Machinery, the specialist distributor of turf and grounds care equipment, recently presented their 2001 Dealer Awards. The awards recognise outstanding achievements made by the company's 18 Tractor Dealers and 34 Turf Machinery Dealer Outlets throughout the UK. Awards were also presented for development and success in reaching and surpassing targets in other key business areas.

Pictured above are Philip Threadgold, Sales Director Charterhouse Ltd; Ian Royston, Risboro' Turf - a division of Turner Groundscare (Winner of Turf Machinery Dealer of the Year); David Jenkins, Managing Director, Charterhouse Ltd; Richard Campey, of Richard Campey Ltd (Winner of Tractor Dealer of the Year), and Tony Scambler of AJ Scambler (Target Achiever).

Peter claims UK territory

Bernhard and Company has appointed Peter Hampton (right) as their new UK Territory Manager. This follows the company's continuing development as leading manufacturers of professional grinding equipment.

Peter was previously the company's US Territory Manager for Western North America.

He has been responsible for business and field support to distributor salesmen supplying

Express Dual Grinders from The Mississippi to the West Coast, including Canada.

"Having been in the grass machinery industry since 1963 Peter has a wealth of experience and has been involved with many innovative changes in the industry," says Stephen Bernhard, Managing Director.

A Trade Member of BIGGA for over 25 years Peter numbers many UK Greenkeepers as his friends.

